

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

## MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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#### BIRTHS.

On November 8, 1908, at Shanghai, Mrs. L. C. B. EMMONDSON, of a daughter.  
On November 12, 1908, at Shanghai, the wife of J. E. FARRELL, of a son.  
On November 12, 1908, to Mr. and Mrs. H. MEYER, a son.

#### MARRIAGE.

On November 7, 1908, at Shanghai, DUCAT, youngest son of the late James Ferguson Dumbarton, to HELEN PAUL, third daughter of John Shand, Renton, Scotland.

#### DEATH.

On November 17, at Hongkong, HORACE E. WADMAN. Aged 48 years.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.  
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1908

### EMPEROR EST—

(14th November.)

Behind the telegram which we are enabled to publish to-day regarding the prostration of the Emperor of China (and the exceptional circumstances surrounding that event) seem to indicate that His Majesty has passed to another (bourn) momentous events must surely lie! For years His Majesty has been under "tutelage" to the "aged Dowager Empress" who cannot last for ever, and whose dominating personality has maintained the integrity of the Middle Kingdom, and for years Emperor Kwang Hsu has been nothing

more or less than a figurehead in the Government of his realm. But on His Majesty's actions in the political intrigues of Peking, once the omnipotent factor has been removed, has depended the future of the Empire which was, and still is, another "Sick Man." Kwang Hsu is—because we do not care to use the past tense at present, although the character of the telegram we have received and the authority of the correspondent are unimpeachable—one of the reforming class who would see China regenerated. His very bigotry, in this sense, shown particularly in the troubles which preceded the Boxer rebellion, accounted for his practical superciliousness. And his physical, as well as mental, weakness sent him into what was really retirement, however honourable it may have been. It is common knowledge that the reigning monarch of the Celestial Empire has about as much to say in matters of State as we will say, the ordinary reader of these lines. At the same time he is a force, whether acting or actual, to be reckoned with in the future, a potential and poignant force, because none knows exactly what his views, reactionary or reformatory, may lead to. That he is not of the despotic temperament which conquered the great Empire of China may be accepted without argument; that he would, an he could, endeavour to make his country a power is also beyond question. All his life, however, he has been subject to the whims and wayward fancies of the Empress Dowager, and the stronger will has in all cases prevailed. Taking it for granted that unusual events have occurred in the Forbidden City, and that the Emperor has given up the ghost, what are we to expect? It is to be cataclysm and anarchy, or are we to see the rejuvenation of an Empire which has lasted and strengthened itself through the centuries? We are told that a Regent has been appointed in the person of Prince Chun, or as he is designated General Tsai Feng, who was a brother of Emperor Kwang Hsu and that a child of six years is nominated as the present sovereign. Prince Chun, as most people in Hongkong know, is a young man, of charming manners, fine presence, and some ability. But besides these incidental accomplishments, his views and outlook are unknown, although it must be recognised that he has seen more of the world than most of his peers. But, assuming that the Emperor is dead, Prince Chun as Regent is liable to be a force in the land for very many years to come, until, of course, his son, the nephew of the Emperor, has reached the age of maturity. Within the next few years very important questions will have to be settled one way or the other in China, and it is extremely doubtful whether the Regent will regard them in the light demanded by the exigencies of Western politics. That he will not be the catspaw of the Dowager—at least to the same extent as Emperor Kwang Hsu—is practically certain, since he has the advantage of enlightened ideas, health, prospective influence and active power. Exactly what his attitude is with reference to current questions is unknown, because he has shown himself to possess the affability of a Li Hung Chang, the character of a Yuan Shih-kai, and the versatility of a Wu Ting-fang. The strain of a Regency, which is, by no means, an autocracy nor a mandatory despotism, is, nevertheless, a ruthless scorner of previous character, and an unwitting revolutionist where plain, ordinary and, shall we say, democratic views are concerned. Prince Chun, in the ordinary course of nature, may expect to be the ruler of the greatest compact nation in the world—for even the Empress Dowager cannot last for ever—and acting in such a role is one of the utmost importance to people far removed from his confines. The nations represented in Hongkong are interested in this imperial affair, for while none is anxious to acquire territory, all are determined that China shall progress, and where there is so much unanimity the inviolability of China remains secured. Events are happening in the Far East which nobody can pretend to estimate, and they are happening in such rapid succession that their importance is apt to be discounted, but China is a future Power which must be reckoned with, and under the rule of a potentate endowed with the qualities of discernment, strength and forcefulness it is impossible to suggest where her empire may end. As we have said, Prince Chun is a young man. This is the day of young men. May he be the godfather of a new China, where reform, advance in all material conditions, and understanding of the value of furthering the public weal shall prevail. As to the son, the Emperor, he must take after his father, and it is to the father that we look.

### FINANCE WHICH MAY AFFECT US.

(16th November.)

Singapore is in the fortunate position of being able to regulate her own finances in relation to the other Settlements in the Straits and her foreign commerce. We in Hongkong are, on the other hand, guided by the exigencies of trade with China. At the same time Singapore has not found it easy to convert a silver currency into a gold standard of value. Many laws have had to be passed in support of the laws necessary to permit of this conversion taking effect and much acrimonious discussion has occurred. The benefit of the system, none denies, because how could they deny it in face of Sir David Barbour's statements in many Blue Books? Now there has been introduced into the Straits Legislative Council a Bill which has to do with the currency, and is called an amending enactment. The Colonial Treasurer in submitting

the Bill mentioned that the changes, since 1906, in the currency of the Colony had been considerable. Towards the close of that year, sovereigns were made legal tender by the Straits Settlements Coinage Order, and in the year following a new dollar was made legal tender while the old one was demonetised. Under the principal Ordinance, section 4 (4) became no longer necessary, while another section, empowering the Commissioners to issue notes in exchange for gold and re-issue gold in exchange for notes, was also unnecessary. The power still remained with the Commissioners to tender any current coin that they might think fit in exchange for notes. Other sections of the new measure provided for the selling and buying of transfers to the Crown Agents. In those numbered 4, 5 and 6 of the Bill, provision was made for the old coins taken out to be replaced by new coins in the Note Guarantee Fund; for the charges on the surplus new coins; and for the balance of new coins being exchanged for the old and paid to gold standard reserve as bullion. There was a loss of \$195,000 between the exchange and face values of silver already sold, and that had already been made good by the surplus amount received from his Majesty's mint as the result of reminting. The amount expected to be available after deducting the loss on reminting was estimated at four million dollars. Provision was now made that the surplus dollars should be paid into the Note Guarantee Fund in exchange for old dollars, and the value as bullion of the old coins would be placed to the credit of the Gold Standard Reserve Fund. The old dollars were being got in by giving notes in exchange, and would form part of the Guarantee Fund. When the old dollars were demonetised on January 1—if the law was not altered—the Currency Commissioners would have to make good their value—the difference between the face and bullion values of the old dollars. The Bill also gave the Commissioners power to hold the old dollars against the Note Currency Fund, after demonetisation, until such time as the Governor might direct, or until their sale, and after the sale of the old dollars, if there was a loss, the Commissioners would also have power to wait till the sale of the Gold Standard Reserve were realised, and so make good the loss. The main object of the gold standard reserve was to cover the difference between the bullion value and the face value of the token coins. When that was attained the income of the investment portion of the note guarantee fund would again be paid into revenue after the depreciation fund had been satisfied. The Government had thought it advisable to make a departure from the recommendations of the special committee, and to make provisions to invest the whole, or any part of the gold standard reserve, accumulating at compound interest, in gold securities. The Treasurer said a change had been made by one of the contested sections so as to enable the Government to accumulate the gold reserve without dislocating the revenue or raising a loan. The matter was not very urgent, as it would be a long time before the Government could take advantage of the provisions of the section. It was not the intention of Government to deplete the banks in any way, or, he was understood to say, to gamble in exchange. One of the results that might be expected would be to stimulate and encourage the export trade of the Colony inasmuch as humbler and smaller and less direct way than his hon. friend opposite had adopted. It was very essential that the export trade should be worked smoothly. There were two questions he would ask the hon. member who signed the rider: Do they wish to have a gold reserve to guarantee their notes and their token coins? How do they propose to build it up? Unless we are very much at sea, all this is pure financial humbug. The first reading of the Bill has been passed of course. What Mr. Baker of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Mr. John Anderson, of Guthrie & Co., think about it we want to see. Their remarks should be instructive to Hongkong.

### HONGKONG TRADE MARKS IN THE FAR EAST.

(18th November.)

The anomalies and difficulties which surround the registration of trade marks in the Far East has once again been exemplified in the letter which the Colonial Secretary directed to the local Chamber of Commerce the other day. It is obvious that when a merchant takes the trouble to register a mark which should be the definite and upward symbol of the character of the goods, placed on the market by him, he naturally expects that the mark in question will be legally protected by the Colonial Government and safeguarded in those countries which have entered into specific agreements with the Imperial Government. Since the discussion on the registration of trade marks arose in Japan, over the flagrant misappropriation of old-established and valuable signs in use by foreign merchants, and the curious judgments of the Courts which in many cases granted to Japanese merchants the right to display trade-marks which they had annexed, negotiations have been proceeding between Great Britain and Japan, with the object of securing the due respect of trade symbols not only in Japan but also in China and Korea. The question which interests local merchants is, to what extent any agreement which may be arrived at will affect the protection of trade marks which have been registered in Hongkong? At first sight it certainly seems only right and proper that if the people of the United Kingdom can have their rights respected in Japan, China and Korea they should be no reason why the merchants of Hongkong should not enjoy the same pri-

villeges. There might be difficulties in the way where a self-governing dominion was concerned, but there should be none in the case of a Crown Colony which is bound hand and foot to the Imperial Government, and has as much say in matters political as a jumping popinjay. But if His Excellency the Governor's view of the situation is correct, it will be necessary for Hongkong merchants in the first instance to register their trade-marks in London as well as in this Colony if they wish to obtain the benefits which is to be extended to participants in the joint agreement. The reason for this *ditum* is given by His Excellency in the following terms: "Otherwise a mark might be registered in Hongkong either by a British or Non-British Firm, which was the exact facsimile of a mark registered in the United Kingdom; and in that case the Imperial Government would be pledged to extend protection to two identical marks against each other. This difficulty could, however, be overcome by requiring that, in the case of letters patent, trademarks should not be registered in this Colony until they have been registered in the United Kingdom." Of course, it is quite possible that merchants in England and Hongkong might by singular coincidence hit upon precisely similar designs to be utilised as trade marks, in which case the Governor's argument would be impeccable. Or, again, merchants engaged in the same line of business might register marks whose resemblance was so significant as to be indistinguishable to the casual buyer. But these are purely speculative cases, and we think that it should not be impossible for the Imperial Government to devise measures which would simply protect the original user of the device in question, especially if he traded in the Colonies, without putting him to the inconvenience and expense of registering the trade-mark in England. From the letter sent to the Chamber by the Governor, through the Colonial Secretary, we learn, as might have been expected, "that the majority of British merchants in Hongkong deprecate the expense and delay which would be involved by prior registration in the United Kingdom; that, as their marks are not used in the United Kingdom, registration there is of no use to them; and that all they desire is to obtain by registration in Hongkong the local protection of their trade-marks." The crowding interest of the communication lies in the tail where it is stated that His Excellency's desire is to learn whether Hongkong merchants who register their trademarks here merely desire local protection or seek protection in China, Korea and Japan as well? If they seek the latter then, says the Governor, they must go to England for it, because they won't get it in Hongkong. So there you are. The Governor desires an opinion on a certain question on which his mind is already made up. In what way the views of the Chamber could affect the position when the principle has already been settled by the authorities, it is impossible to conceive. The members might blurt and raise quivering voices in protest, but they might as well proceed to howl in the wilderness for all the good that would result. In the reply of the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, a plain and practical suggestion is made to meet the difficulty raised by the Governor. He wrote: "In the event of the claims of a mark registered by the British subject only in the United Kingdom conflicting with the claims of a mark registered by a British subject only in Hongkong, it would be possible for the Imperial Government to protest in China the one which could prove rights conferred by prior usage." That would appear to be a single way of surmounting the obstacles raised by the Government—if the Government were prepared to consider the matter at all. As the secretary concludes: "The effect would be to protect by local registration the marks of British subjects in China, Korea and Japan as well as locally, but to protect the marks of other subjects only locally, which seems to meet the main difficulty. Under the impression that this view of the rights of prior usage is supported by the spirit of the English law upon the subject, and having regard to the extreme local inconvenience of compulsory registration in the United Kingdom, my Committee would recommend that it should not be made a condition precedent to registration in Hongkong in the new ordinance which His Excellency proposes to enact." From a business point of view the recommendation of the Chamber is worthy of serious consideration but we are afraid that it will be pigeon-holed and only heard of again at the coming of the Greek Kalends. There is one fact, however, which must give rise to some slight satisfaction, and that is the interest which the Imperial Government is giving to the question of the registration of British trade marks in foreign countries. It is somewhat curious that such commercial reforms and evidence of business enlightenment invariably attend a Liberal Administration whereas the Conservatives usually succeed in devoting their entire attention to the floating of impossible schemes or the flouting of friendly nations, which adds to the exigencies of trade operations.

### MORE LIGHT ON CHINA'S CURRENCY POSITION.

(19th November.)

While the present unsettled condition of Imperial affairs in China precludes the notion that any radical changes in the direction of financial reform may be anticipated for some time to come, it is always interesting to read the competent, discreet and reports which emanate from the Ministry at Peking on this subject. The value

tated might be inclined to think that once the decree had been circulated the question had been settled for all time, and reforms would begin right away. How far that is from being the fact those who know their China are but too well aware. On this question of finance in particular the Chinese have dallied until the patience of states might well have been deemed to be less than a virtue. It was in 1903 that the Mackay treaty was passed, and in one of its articles the Chinese Government explicitly agreed to proceed immediately to consolidate and arrange the currency of the Empire so that at length a uniform national currency might be established. It would be unfair, perhaps, to allege that up to the present nothing has been done to give effect to that agreement, for the simple reason that from time to time we have seen the authorities at the various Mints making the bold assertion that at length they had found a solution of the question, and that a uniform dollar which would replace the existing coin—whatever it might be—would be used at once, and orders given that it must pass current at a certain value. But like a great many other reforms which seemed admirable on paper these declarations came to nothing. If anything happened at all it was to render still more chaotic the varying currency of the country and to enrich the moneychangers and the native banks at the expense of the ordinary individual who was obliged to have recourse to their indulgence. There is not the slightest doubt that the task of establishing the currency of China on a sound and uniform basis is one of almost colossal magnitude, especially when it is remembered that the great majority of the population know little of and cares nothing for the exigencies of trade or international questions in which China is concerned. Not only that, but in every other province the currency stands on a foundation of its own, the outcome of custom, convenience or local expediency. The establishment of a national dollar which shall be of a standard value throughout the Empire is, therefore, a thing incomprehensible to them and an object of suspicion, involving as it would the overthrow of all prevalent ideas and the virtual suggestion that ancestral ways must be consigned to the limbo of the past. The Chinese Government is therefore faced with an extremely intricate task, requiring the greatest diplomatic skill and finesse, when it sets out to convince the villagers of the interior that any changes introduced are necessarily for the better. When the Council or Commission which was appointed by the Chinese Government to inquire into and report on the uniform national currency scheme came to frame their views they ingeniously left the larger issues at stake out of consideration and brought the matter down to a question of dollars or taels, invoking, at the same time, the spirit of the people in their right to stand aloof from other nations. Well, if China wishes to abide by the tael and its subsidiary fractions nobody has any desire to offer the slightest objection; but it is pure sophistry and ignorance to work into a financial report such high-falootin' nonsense as the following which appears in the report to the Imperial Government: "From the point of view of national dignity it seems to us that we ought to try and stand alone, and that we cannot afford to throw away our sovereign rights in order to gratify the wishes of others; while from the point of view of the people we should follow a course suitable to the greater number, and for the convenience of open ports or trading ports. This is as much a fundamental principle for our guidance in making the enactment today, as it will be an essential factor for the future success of the measure itself." If the Chinese prefer a currency based on the tael and good, but at least let there be a common standard so that those dealing with the country and having extensive stakes there may know where they stand. An objection is dragged forth, only for the purpose that it may be knocked down again, that to nationalise the tael as against the dollar would tend to increase the cost of living, but as the common people deal mostly in cash the suggestion is seen to be absurd on the face of it. In the case of Siam, when that country resolved to put her currency on a gold basis, there was great fear for a time that the peasantry and labouring class, being unable to understand why they should receive seven ticals a month in place of the ten to which they had been accustomed, would create trouble at the outset. But nothing happened and the conversion of the currency from the silver to a gold standard was carried out quietly and almost without remark. Of course, the conditions in Siam—as well as in Singapore—are very different from those prevailing in China, because in the former country the foreign banks are practically masters of the situation, whereas in China every Viceroy who has a mint under his control is a self-constituted financier possessed of arbitrary and extensive powers. And it is always to the interest of the Master of the Mint to see that the institution is kept at full swing, for the greater the output the greater the profit, and the greater the contribution to Peking the greater the chance of promotion. In one paragraph the Council settled the value of the dollar so far as they were concerned: "As regards the national dollar coined by the Board of Finance the year before last, as an experiment, the intention was to make use of this coin temporarily, as being known to the people and easy to establish. But if a uniform currency is to be sought, the standard can only be fixed after far-reaching investigation, and the present memorialists have formed the conclusion, after carefully

weighing all considerations, that the long-established use of the tael and its fractions—the mace, candareen and mill—can hardly be altered or abolished." Questions are discussed as to the fitness of the coin and such like futile matters which do not arise at the moment, but we find no definite recommendation that an immediate start should be made with the proposal to reform the currency of the country, nothing but windy generalities which might have been framed by a pedlar of cheap goods. So that the dawn of the day when the terms of the Mackay treaty will be enforced is as far off as ever, if not farther. In conclusion, we might note that if the Chinese Government adopted a uniform tael the solution of how to improve the Hongkong subsidiary currency might be within sight.

### PITY THE POOR LANDLORD.

Householders in Hongkong, both occupiers and owners must have read yesterday with no little interest and attention the judgment of the Appeal Court in the landlord and tenant case, which was a sequel to the last typhoon. Briefly, Mr. Goldring, a solicitor, sued the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, his landlord, for \$500, being damages suffered by him in consequence of the company failing to keep his premises in a proper state of repair. It appeared that after the storm on the 28th July, the tenant discovered that the ceiling of his verandah was showing signs of dampness, but there was no leakage. Two days later there was another heavy rainstorm and he found the water pouring through his roof and verandah and causing damage to his personal effects. What the effects were we are not told nor is it necessary that we should know. The lower Court presumably estimated the damage for itself when it gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff to the amount stated. An appeal was made by the landlord company to the Full Court and the judgment delivered yesterday by the Chief Justice was of sufficient importance to be quoted *in extenso*. It affects, as we have indicated, every individual in the Colony who is an owner of property or holds the lesser part of tenant; for it may be taken for granted that one result of this decision will be a drastic revision of the terms of the agreement entered into between the owner and the tenant. We may say at once that the appeal was dismissed, and the judgment of the lower court upheld. It has to be noted that, according to the Puisne Judge's finding no structural defect is alleged and it appears that the damage was caused by water which had accumulated in large quantity on the roof owing to the gutter pipes becoming blocked. They were found to be choked with rubbish and grass, leaves of trees, and "black matter," and also with plaster from the wall. The pipes were apparently cleared without difficulty by the plaintiff's coolie who was sent up on the roof, and the accumulated water thereupon escaped. The agreement, upon which the original claim hinged, laid distinctly that the landlord would "keep the roof and all exterior walls of the said premises in a proper tenable state of repair and amendment, at their own costs." The question now arose whether the landlord (that is to say, the company) was responsible for carrying out repairs of which he had not received notice, and it appears to be sound law that in those cases where the landlord agrees to be responsible for the repairs he is entitled to reasonable notice by the tenant. And the reason for that is quite clear: in the majority of instances where repairs are necessary they are not likely to meet the eye of the landlord whereas the tenant has them staring him in the face every day. Moreover, he would be a genial and somewhat soft-headed tenant who would permit his landlord to poke and pry about his premises at any hour of the day when he might take the idea into his head. But in this case, the point was that it was the roof that had been damaged and, speaking for ourselves, we should have thought that if there was one place about the house which the landlord would not be likely to visit, it would naturally be the roof. That is the layman's view which as everybody knows is on law at all. Now what do you leave when you leave a flat? So far as we can make out the only thing the tenant has a right to use in that flat is the floor, for the Chief Justice says he is "clearly of opinion that it is a lease of the interior only; that it gives no right to the lessee as against the landlord to use, except by legal necessity, either the outside walls or the roof or anything appurtenant thereto." This is a fine piece of business. Once upon a time when people were commiserating an unfortunate wail they would say: "Poor fellow! He hasn't even a roof to his head." If they had only known it, half of the sympathising crowd was not entitled to a roof over their own heads. The answer to the question, why isn't the tenant entitled to the use of the roof over him? is that if he were, and being of a bold, enterprising disposition, he might erect a sky sign on the roof illuminating the heavens for miles around with the thrilling announcement that the A.D.C. or some other popular affair was on duty to-night. That would never do. And now, perhaps the reader can see how it is that although under most conditions the tenant has to give notice in this case he was absolved? To make things perfectly clear we quote the Chief Justice. "As there was no demise of that part of the premises which were out of repair, the doctrine of notice cannot apply, for the simple reason that the lessee can go on the roof to inspect, and the lessee cannot. He would certainly in law be as much a trespasser as the lessee in the case put by Baron Bramwell in *Makin v. Watkinson*. The reason for the rule as to notice fails, for



the lessor 'may know that repairs are necessary.' That a cause of action therefore occurred in the circumstances, we have no doubt on another familiar principle which deals with accumulations of water on a property which amounts to a non-natural use of it. Of course that led His Lordship into a dissertation on what constituted structural defects, and he found that the appellants hadn't the ghost of a leg to stand on. Moreover, he gave the common-sense view of the matter in the following terms: "And the practical result of our decision is the common sense one that if landlords demolish rooms, or flats, or floors, covered by a roof, it is their duty to see that all parts of that roof, with its appurtenances, are in good and working order, without any correlative duty being thrown on the tenant to warn them or give them notice of their being out of repair. The landlord's duty arises out of his relationship to the tenant if there is no covenant, it arises out of the covenant if there is one." After all, if you are not entitled to a roof when you hire a house you are certainly not required by law to pay for the thing you don't possess. But what is to become of those venturesome people who when processions and ceremonies are in vogue, promptly climb up unasked? If you are a landlord, probably the simplest way out of the difficulty would be to push them over gently, so that there could be no cause for an action for assault.

### WHEN MERCHANTS INFRINGE THE LAW.

(20th November.)

The extremely delicate and difficult question of dealing with bankrupt traders and others who have absconded with material in places outwith the jurisdiction of the Hongkong Courts has been so frequently discussed in public and has so often formed the basis of an argument before the Supreme Court that we confess it was with no little surprise we found that the Chief Justice, in giving his decision in an appeal case (which has nothing to do with this immediate question), should have thought fit to run off at a tangent in order to settle the question of the jurisdiction of Hongkong should conduct their own affairs. As an international jurisdiction, Hongkong stands, we can perfectly well understand how the side-dip into the law of nations should have come to the Chief Justice in much the same way as the solitary rain in the current-bun appeals to the average boy. But there is this difference, that whereas the boy regards the dainty as the leading feature of his outfit, the Chief Justice simply followed a natural instinct, with the result that, quite unexpectedly perhaps, he has passed an obiter dictum which few will accept. For example, His Lordship distinctly went out of his way to deprecate the action of a European firm, which had failed to obtain satisfaction in the Hongkong Courts, in seeking redress through its Consul in Canton. Now, it is a common occurrence for the partners of tottering firms in Hongkong to vanish with all the stock they can lay their hands on at the moment and eventually settle down in the neighbourhood of South China. They have been known to have immense property in Singapore which could not be touched by the creditors in Hongkong, and if we remember rightly there was not many years ago the case of a millionaire merchant, who was known to possess huge interests in both Canton and Singapore, who went bankrupt in Hongkong, who was actually imprisoned in the home of his wife, but who was ultimately able to get free because the local judiciary had no jurisdiction over his possessions. Of course it is very distressing that there should be such depraved persons in the flesh, but the fact remains and has to be taken into consideration both by the Courts and the creditors. Then if the Courts in Hongkong tacitly admit that they have no jurisdiction over the goods of a bankrupt whose possessions are held in another country, what more naturally does any creditor commit should be endeavour, through the local representative of the country of his birth to obtain part-restitution of the losses he has sustained? It is the most natural thing in the world, in fact it is pure business, for a firm which feels that it has been aggrieved to move heaven and earth if necessary to secure whatever assets are available in part-payment of the amount due to them; and it is not to be suggested that in doing so they are attempting to gain an unfair advantage over the local creditors. Because actions of this nature are not conducted in private; the other creditors have just as much opportunity of presenting their claims in the proper quarter as the greatest sufferer by the bankruptcy. The case we are referring to is, of course, that in which Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. took action against a Chinese firm over a sugar transaction which had its origin in Hongkong, although the defendants apparently did the bulk of their business in Canton. The Chief Justice said down the law in the following terms: "All persons in the Colony, British subjects or aliens, who are creditors of a bankrupt who is before the Court in bankruptcy, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. There is no doubt that if assets belonging to the bankrupt are discovered in another country and a creditor endeavours to obtain them for his own benefit, the Court has some jurisdiction to control his action, and that if he is within the jurisdiction, whether he has proved in the bankruptcy or not, it is not necessary to define with precision to what extent that jurisdiction goes; it is sufficient to note that it exists; also that the discovery of a partner in another country whose property could be brought into the bankruptcy estate for the benefit of the creditors comes within the meaning of assets as above referred to."

The German firm in question in following this procedure, but even granting that it was not playing the game as we understand it, it was it of such an extreme character as to demand such a severe reprimand at the hands of the Chief Justice? When all is said and done the firm was only looking after its own interests, in the belief and expectation, probably that the others concerned were doing exactly the same thing. We take it that the goods which were the subject of the action, were stored in Hongkong, under the charge of the Officer in Bankruptcy and could not be removed without an order of the Court. In that case, the appeal to the German Consul at Canton to move the Chinese authorities could hardly have been expected to prove of much value, for, as the Justice said, "the Chinese are not children though they may not know the law." The firm referred to doubtless believed that they could get quicker returns if they applied for redress to the Chinese authorities without bothering about formalities in Hongkong. Such a proceeding was very reprehensible and would in many cases, if it succeeded, prove prejudicial to the trade of other merchants in the Colony, but would it succeed? The Chief Justice proceeded to rub in his view by remarking that "it is one of those 'loose ends' which result from the consular jurisdiction treaties with China, and which it would be for the benefit of all concerned in the commercial welfare of the Colony, to get rid of by putting the whole matter on a more satisfactory and equitable basis." What he means we cannot conjecture, unless the law is to do away with consular courts and establish a joint international tribunal, which is in the nature of a dream. We rather enjoy the statement that there never was an "open door" in England because there had never been a door to close. We would only refer to the Alien Bill and the projected Tariff Reform Bill which would also have been carried by the last Government if the Tories had had their way. If England has had an open door since Magna Charta, it is just possible that the experience of centuries may be reversed when the opposition next comes into power. But that is by the way, and was only introduced by the Chief Justice as a side issue, to show what a glorious thing it is to be an Englishman. In conclusion he said: "I think it right to add to what I have said that the error into which Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. fell, and which was the origin of all this litigation, was perhaps due to the fact that the firm trades in so many Treaty Ports in the East as well as in Hongkong, that this essential distinction between Hongkong and the rest of the East had somewhat escaped them." After all, if Reuter, Brockelmann & Co. erred they erred in good company, and even the veiled hints of the Chief Justice of the terrible liabilities to which they may be exposed by following this precedent will not deter other enterprising merchants from adopting a somewhat similar course in future, and the way of it is that the Chief Justice nor anybody else has power to restrain them from doing what they please in the matter.

### Telegrams.

#### "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

#### EMPEROR'S ILLNESS.

#### NO AUDIENCE GRANTED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 18th November. On the 12th inst., the Emperor did not occupy the Throne and attend to State affairs. This fact gave rise to reports that His Majesty was ill. Information has been gathered from another source that the Empress Dowager is seriously ill also.

#### THE DALAI LAMA.

#### AN UNFOUNDED RUMOUR.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 18th November. It was rumoured in Tibet that the Dalai Lama had been murdered in Peking. The natives became greatly agitated in consequence.

#### AN EXPENSIVE VISITOR.

#### BUDDHIST PONTIFF URGED TO RETURN TO TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 18th November. The stay of the Dalai Lama, with his followers, in Peking, costs \$5,000 a day. The Central Government is urging the Buddhist Pontiff's return to Tibet without further delay.

#### PEKING.

#### PRINCE CHUN APPOINTED REGENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th November, 9 a.m. Yesterday, an Imperial Decree was issued by the Empress Dowager appointing Prince Chun to be the Regent and his son to be brought up and educated in the Palace.

Some unusual occurrences have taken place in the Capital. For some days the Grand Councilors have not been received in audience. Prince Ching, who was on his way to visit the Imperial Tombs, has been recalled.

[Our enterprising Chinese contemporary issued the above telegram in an Extra to-day. Prince Chun is a younger brother of Emperor Kwang-Su. His son, who is, therefore, a nephew of His Majesty, is a boy only six years of age. Prince Ching is an interesting person.

ality. He was delegated by the Chinese Court to proceed to Germany after the Boxer trouble to tender his Government's apology for the murder of the German Minister in Peking, Prince Chun, when passing through Hongkong, was a guest of the then Governor, Sir Harry A. Blake, and left an interesting souvenir in the Colony in the group photograph taken at Government House. Prince Ching is an uncle of Emperor Kwang-Su.—Ed., H.K.T.]

#### EMPEROR IN EXTREMIS.

#### EMPERESS DOWAGER SERIOUSLY ILL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th November. The Emperor was dangerously ill on the 14th inst., and no hope was entertained for his recovery.

His Majesty is in extremis.

The Empress Dowager is also seriously ill.

[According to Chinese journalistic etiquette no actual announcement of the Sovereign's death can be made until it is officially reported. The phrase "no hope" is entered for his recovery in this instance, implies the Emperor's death.—Ed., H.K.T.]

#### PHYSICIANS SUMMONED.

#### APPEAL TO VICEROYS AND GOVERNORS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th November, 2.30 p.m.

On the 14th inst., an Imperial Decree was issued commanding the Viceroy and Governors within the Empire to recommend the best doctors for the Imperial patients.

The Central Government has telegraphed for Dr. Chan Peng Kwan to proceed with all haste to Peking from Kiangsu.

#### THE INFANT EMPEROR.

#### PRINCE CHUN'S SON.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th November.

Prince Chun's son, Po Yee, a child three years of age, has entered the Palace in obedience to the commands of an Imperial Decree.

#### THE REGENCY.

#### CHANG CHIH-TUNG'S DISPLEASURE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th November.

Grand Councilor Chang Chih-tung is dissatisfied with the Imperial Decree issued on the 13th inst., appointing the Regency.]

His Excellency has expressed his desire to leave Peking forthwith on the pretext to investigate the affairs of the Canton-Hankow Railway.

#### VICEROY HSU HSI-CHANG.

#### WELCOMED BY THE JAPANESE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th November.

H.E. Hsu Hsi-Chang, Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces, has arrived at Newchwang. His Excellency was accorded a very cordial welcome by the Japanese who made an appropriation of Tls. 100,000 towards his reception.

#### MILITARY MANOEUVRES.

#### TROOPS CONCENTRATING NEAR PEKING.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 16th November, 11.45 a.m.

The troops that have gathered for the autumn manoeuvres are concentrating in Peking.

#### THE PASSING OF THE EMPEROR.

#### NO ADMITTANCE INTO THE "FORBIDDEN CITY."

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 16th November.

Some unusual happening has taken place in the Palace. No one was allowed admission into or exit from the "Forbidden City" Gate, yesterday.

Peking, 16th November.

The Emperor died between 5 and 6 p.m., on the 14th inst., and was encoffined between 9 and 10 a.m. on the 15th idem.

Later.

The Emperor on his death-bed gave commands for the appointment of Prince Chun's son, Po-yee, as heir to himself and his predecessor, Emperor Tung-chi.

He also left instructions for the appointment of Prince Chun as the Regent with plenary powers to administer State affairs.

Later.

The Empress Dowager died yesterday between 1 and 3 p.m.

On the same day between 4 and 5 p.m. the corpse was conveyed in a sedan chair to the Palace where it was to lie in state until to-day.

Later.

Upon learning of the death of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Dowager the people in Peking became greatly agitated.

General Keung Kwai Tai has been telegraphed for to proceed to Peking at once with his troops to put down any disturbance that may arise.

Later.

The inhabitants in Peking are greatly perturbed and most of the officials are exercised [over the appointment of the Regency].

Every military precaution is being taken in the Palace for emergencies.

Strict reticence is observed in the Palace.

#### DEATH OF EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF CHINA.

#### OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 16th November, 11.45 a.m.

According to an official announcement the death of Emperor Kwang-Su took place at five o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

H. I. M. the Empress Dowager's death was announced to-day.

We have been favoured with the following telegram received by Government from Sir John Jordan, H.B.M. Minister in Peking:—"The Empress Dowager and the Emperor died."

[This telegram was issued in a Hongkong Telegraph "Extra" this forenoon.—Ed., H.K.T.]

#### PEKING.

#### PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 16th November.

Owing to the prevalence of rumours in Peking every precaution is being taken by the police against disturbances.

#### PRESS REPORTS.

#### SUPPRESSION ORDERED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 16th November.

In view of the unusual happenings in the Palace, Prince Su has prohibited the newspapers in Peking from publishing reports likely to incite the populace.

#### KWANG-SU'S SUCCESSOR.

#### PRINCE CHING'S RESENTMENT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 16th November.

The appointment of Po-yee as successor to the late Emperor Kwang-Su is contrary to the wishes of Prince Ching.

The moment he heard of the announcement he despatched a confidential telegram to Duke Lan on the existing situation.

#### PEKING UNDER ARMS.

#### PRINCE CHUN'S TIMIDITY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 17th November.

The death-bed Edict of the late Emperor was drafted by Grand Councilors Yuan Shih-kai and Sai Chuk by command of the Empress Dowager.

Prince Ching, who had then returned to Peking, took no part in the formulation of the draft.

There has been a panic in the money market in Peking and over half the number of the native Banks have closed their doors.

The Infant Emperor was to ascend the Throne to-day attended by the customary ceremonies.

Later.

When the Empress Dowager was in her death-bed she sent for Prince Chun to enter the Palace and forthwith assume the responsibilities in the administration of State affairs.

His Royal Highness was timorous and did not dare to proceed within

the precincts of the Imperial edifice, alleging, as an excuse, that it was more convenient, for the despatch of business, that he should remain in the office of the Cabinet where he could consult the Grand Councilors more easily.

Most of the important matters in the Palace were attended to by Yuan Shih-kai.

Although Prince Ching has been in the Palace ever since the passing away of the Emperor, he has had no voice in the councils of State. He is greatly incensed in consequence.

The death of His Majesty has thrown Peking into a state of consternation; it has given rise to rumours that there has been foul play in the death of Kwang-Su.

Later.

Prince Chun regards Chang Chih-tung as an able and experienced official and generally seeks his advice on all important matters.

The Palace is closely guarded, within and without, by troops under General Cheung Kwai Song.

Orders have been despatched to Tuan Fang, Yum Cheung and Wang Hsi-chang to hasten to Peking with their foreign-drilled troops.

In view of the existing situation and apprehending personal violence on him, Prince Chun hesitates to act as Regent.

Prince Ching does not conceal his disappointment and proposes to resign from the Grand Council as soon as the funeral ceremonies are over.

Later.

The Forbidden City is strongly guarded, and there are unmistakable signs that the political atmosphere in the Palace is abnormal.

People in the Capital are becoming panic-stricken under a tension of uncertainty. The Grand Councilors have, in consequence, prohibited the despatch of letters and telegrams lest State secrets might be given away at the present critical juncture.

The Councilors have telegraphed to Viceroy Yuan Hsi-chang to proceed to Peking by Express train to attend a conference on important affairs.

The course of events has so put about Prince Ching that he has taken ill; it is feared he cannot attend to his duties.

Urgent telegrams have been forwarded by the Grand Councilors containing news of recent events in Peking for the information of foreign countries as well as China proper.

6.45 p.m.

The unconfirmed report is reiterated of the murder of the new Emperor, Po-yee. The persistence of the rumour in Peking is adding fuel to the fire of excitement prevailing in the mind of the populace.

The foregoing despatches were received by our well-informed contemporary between 4 and 7 p.m. yesterday, and as usual, with their enterprising promptitude, were issued to their subscribers.—Ed., H.K.T.]

#### The Peking Debacle.

#### PRINCE CHING DEAD.

#### YUAN SHIH-KAI IN THE ASCENDANCY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 19th November, 2.40 p.m.

Three representatives from each of the Foreign Legations were invited to the Palace in Peking on Saturday, to witness the lying in state of their late Majesties the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China.

The Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, on behalf of his colleagues, expressed the condolences of the Foreign Powers with the Chinese Government and people on the death of their Imperial Majesties.

4.15 p.m.

Prince Ching died at noon yesterday (Wednesday).

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 19th November.

Prince Ching died yesterday between one and three o'clock in the afternoon. Yuan Shih-kai is all powerful in Peking.

18th November, 5 p.m.

All is quiet within the Palace and the Offices of the Grand Councilors. Wild rumours are now subsiding.

The reports concerning the feeling of Yuan Shih-kai to the British Legation and the attempt to get Prince Pu-lun upon the Throne are untrue.

Upon the announcement of the death of the Emperor and the Empress Dowager, the Viceroy of the Diplomatic Corps with an assurance that full protection will be afforded the Foreign Legations.

Prince Chun, the Regent, is attending to the affairs of State at the office of the Cabinet and confers with the widow of the late Emperor once every day.

The Dalai Lama, upon hearing of the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager, begged leave to return to Tibet forthwith. The Central Government urged the Pontiff to defer his departure, which he has agreed to do.

8 p.m.

The Grand Councilors have approached the Prince Regent to take up his quarters in the Imperial Palace. His Royal Highness cannot acquiesce in the request for the present.

Japan proposed to withdraw the Legation Guards before the end of this (Chinese) year; but in view of the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager the contemplated withdrawal of the Japanese troops will not be carried out yet.

#### IMPERIAL EDICTS.

November 13th.

A Decree was this day issued by His Majesty the Emperor appointing T'ai Feng (Prince Chun) Regent and commanding that Prince Chun's son Po-yee be brought up and educated in the Imperial Palace.

November 13th.

An Imperial Decree has been issued announcing that His Majesty the Emperor has been indisposed since the Autumn of last year and that the physicians sent to Peking attend His Majesty by the Tartar General, Viceroy and Governors in obedience to the Imperial Command have failed to effect a cure. Furthermore His Majesty's condition has lately become very critical. The Imperial patient has no appetite for food, is suffering from severe attack of indigestion, has cough and fever, and is consequently feeling very weak and tired. His Majesty is therefore very anxious about his health and commands all Tartar Generals, Viceroy and Governors to send the best physicians whether of official rank or not in their respective provinces to Peking to attend His Majesty at once. Special Honours will be bestowed on those who can restore His Majesty to health and the Tartar Generals, Viceroy and Governors who recommended them will be handsomely rewarded.

An Imperial Decree has this day been issued giving Prince Chun, the Regent, precedence over all other Imperial Princes and Ministers of State.

An Imperial Decree has been issued conferring the Degree of Ku Ren (M.A.) on a large number of returned military students and appointing them Captains and Lieutenants of the Army according to merit.—Shanghai Times.

#### PRINCE CHING'S DEATH.

#### FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE QUI VIVE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 19th November.

Prince Ching's death, reported yesterday, was brought about through the bursting of a blood vessel caused by violent anger; he brought up a good deal of blood.

The title "Sun Tung" has been adopted as the one of the reign of the new Emperor, Po-yee, commencing from the first day of the next Chinese year.

The guards within and without the Forbidden City in Peking have been reinforced. The minds of the people are at ease.

The members of the Diplomatic Corps in Peking are evincing keen interest in the present conjuncture. The Foreign Ministers propose to remove the Legation Guards to Taku.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has remonstrated with the representatives of the Powers against the contemplated step and renewed their assurance of full protection.

Grand Councilor Chang Chih-tung has been busy for days in the Cabinet. His Excellency preserves perfect reticence on recent events and does not receive any visitors except on official business.

The Board of Revenue has borrowed a sum of three million taels from the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and so averted a crisis in the money market in Peking.

On the 15th inst., when the Empress Dowager was breathing her last, it was reported that the Empress (widow of Kwang-Su) attempted to commit suicide. The Empress' attendants, however, observing her rash intention, were promptly on the scene to their Imperial mistress's rescue.

Li Li-yong, the Chief eunuch, and a person with the late Empress Dowager, has been arrested and is in imprisonment for interfering in affairs of State. Eunuch Li has been sent to the Board of Punishments to be dealt with.

The Foreign Ministers in Peking have made application to their respective Governments for warships to be despatched to Tientsin for protection should the occasion arise.

Viceroy Tuan Fung has received an urgent telegram from Peking on a very important matter.

Wuchang, 19th November. Viceroy Chang Kwai Lum's proposal, memorialised to the Central Government, to adopt a concerted plan to preserve peace and good in the South-Eastern provinces of the Empire, is acquiesced in by the Viceroy and Governors of the other Provinces.

Most of his colleagues in their telegraphic replies, inquired how best it is proposed the scheme can be carried into effect.

Honolulu, 19th November. H.E. Tang Shao-yi, special commissioner to the United States, has cabled a memorial to Peking proposing a change in the equivalent idiom for "Yi" in reference to His Imperial Majesty the new Emperor Po-yee.

H.E. Tang has also telegraphed for instructions whether it would be necessary for alteration to be effected in his credentials for presentation to the President of the Republic.











## The Opium Trade.

ATTEMPTED INDIRECT MONOPOLY.  
OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

On the 25th September last we reported, with full details, an attempt to create an indirect monopoly in Canton to control the opium trade by the provincial authorities of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. The official correspondence that has since passed on the subject was laid before the committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce on 12th inst. and is appended:—

Hongkong, 23rd September, 1908.  
D. R. LAW, Esq.,  
Chairman, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—We beg to submit herewith copy of a letter we have to-day addressed to Mr. Harry H. Fox, H. B. M.'s Consul-General, Canton, in which we have protested against the proposed action of the Provincial Authorities of the Two Kwangs, which we submit, if carried into effect, will seriously restrict and hamper the sale of Raw Opium in the Kwang Tung Province.

We shall be glad if your Chamber will do all in its power to further our protest.

We have &c.  
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,—E. Shellim,  
E. D. SASSOON & Co.,  
E. PANANEY,  
S. J. DAVID & Co.,  
PHIROZSHA B. PETIT & Co.,  
P. B. D. TATA,  
TATA SONS & Co.,—P. B. D. Tata,  
CAWASSEE PALANJEE & Co.,  
P. F. TALATI,  
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,  
M. H. E. ELLIAS.

[Enclosures.]

Hongkong, September 23rd, 1901.

Harry H. Fox, Esq.,  
H. B. M.'s Consul-General, Canton.

Sir,—We have the honour to bring to your notice translations of the following documents, copies of which are enclosed:—

1. Notification dated "Kwang Tai, 34th Year 8th Moon, 9th Day" (4th September, 1908), purporting to be issued by the Provincial Judge, the Colonial Treasurer, the President of the Re-Organization Board and Superintendent of Police of the Province of Kwang Tung.
2. Form of Licence referred to in the Notification proposed to be issued by the Provincial Judge, the Colonial Treasurer, the President of the Re-Organization Board and Superintendent of Police of the Province of Kwang Tung.
3. A Licence referred to in the Notification proposed to be issued by the same Board for smokers of opium authorising the purchase by the individual mentioned in the Licence for foreign and native opium from native shops.

The notification states that the provisions contained therein will come into force and become operative on the 1st day of the 10th moon, (4th September, 1908). Under the circumstances, therefore, it would appear that no time should be lost in protesting against the action of the Provincial Authorities, which, for the reasons hereafter set forth, we contend is wholly illegal and contrary to Treaty.

The notification provides that the local Authorities shall make:

- (1) Clear investigation into the number of shops selling raw and prepared opium in every city, town, village and hamlet.
- (2) That the local authorities shall have these shops registered.
- (3) That the authorities shall then grant them licence for carrying on their business (i.e., of selling raw and prepared opium).
- (4) That after ascertainment and registration of the number of opium shops in the Province of the Two Kwangs; no new opium shops doing business in the buying and selling of raw and prepared opium may be established.
- (5) All opium shops are to be belicensed and the licence is to be renewable every year and any shop after buying or selling raw opium without having a licence is liable to be seized and shut up.
- (6) Individuals who wish to purchase raw opium must procure licences and produce them to the shop to enable them to purchase the raw opium from that shop. It is incumbent on that shop to see that the purchaser has a licence enabling him to purchase the specified amount and no other, quantity than that specified in this licence. The purchaser has to hand over to the opium shop one copy of the licence on purchasing and retain the other himself. Purchaser without a licence are subject to arrest and punishment.

We contend that the Government of China having by Articles 5 and 10 of the British Treaty of Nanking 1842 expressly agreed to abolish the practice named in Article 5 of the Treaty, and having agreed to:—

- "Permit British Merchants to carry on their Mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please."

It is gross abuse of this Treaty if the Provincial Authorities of the Two Kwangs are allowed to carry into effect the enactments contained in the Notification above referred to. It is obvious that if Clauses 1, 2, and 3 are carried into effect, the result will be that a certain number of native establishments selling raw and prepared opium will be ascertained, registered and licensed, and this will curtail the sale of raw opium, and only the native establishments registered and licensed will be competent to purchase raw opium from the British vendor, and whether the purchase by the native shop be made direct or through an agent, it will be the same. In effect the British Merchant will have his trade cut down to the limits of those who are permitted by the Provincial Authorities of the Two Kwangs to trade with him. Such a monopoly would prevent other dealers from participating in the Opium Trade, thus destroying healthy competition and thereby crippling business and causing heavy loss to importers who will be at the mercy of the few native shops who hold licences authorising them to purchase raw opium. Hence of licence would be able to combine to dictate purchasing prices, feeling confident of their position as monopolists in the Trade.

We submit that the scheme is illegal and is contrary to Treaty, and is illegal.

With regard to Clause 4, viz:—"that after ascertainment and registration of the number of opium shops in the Province of the Two Kwangs no new opium shops doing business in the buying and selling of raw and prepared opium may be established, the result of this clause will be that a monopoly will be created amongst a certain number of existing opium shops, which shops will, as time goes on, decrease in number by either (a) retirement from business, (b) seizure and closure by the authorities of shops for an infringement or alleged infringement of the law (c) the purchase by capitalists of the shops and of the licences.

In the course of time, therefore, the sale of raw opium will be in the hands of a few, thus creating a monopoly. In this regard we would point out that it would be through an agent, to induce whether or not a licence was a genuine licence. If a licence presented by a purchaser is found to be false, the proprietor of the opium shop is liable to have his shop seized and shut up.

and he would sustain the loss of his entire capital through no fault of his own. This would open the door to fraud inasmuch as false charges could be trumped up against opium shops in order to get them seized and closed in order to obtain the forfeiture of their capital to the Chinese Authorities. This again will ultimately result in the authorities farming the licensed shops out to those capable of paying heavy sums for them over and above the ordinary licence fees.

If these conditions are to prevail, native merchants will be chary of entering into the business and the trade will consequently get into the hands of a few traders. We predict that in a short space of time the Provincial authorities either by closing the existing shops or by farming them out to a few, will get the whole trade into their own hands, thus creating a monopoly, which is expressly contrary to the Treaty of Nanking.

With regard to Clause 6, on each and every occasion that an individual wishes to purchase raw opium, this burdensome procedure has to be carried out, and on each occasion the purchaser has to pay a licence fee. This will of necessity hamper trade and prevent freedom of the buying and selling of raw opium.

We contend that all the regulations as we have in some detail pointed out, form the nucleus of a monopoly which will monopolize the raw opium trade in the Province of the Two Kwangs into the hands of a few individuals, and possibly into the hands of the Provincial Government.

It would be greatly prejudicial to the interests of the Indian Government if such a scheme is permitted to be enforced specially in the present unsettled and unsatisfactory state of the Opium Trade owing to the action of the Chinese Government in closing up the public smoking dens, and importers, in view of the further uncertainty of demand from those who would hold a monopoly, would curtail importation, which would mean a material reduction of their purchases from Government of India's monthly sales.

At this, therefore, that it is advisable to lay the matter before you, so that immediate steps may be taken to stop the regulations being carried into effect and we trust that you will support us in protesting against this proposed infringement of our treaty rights.

In further support of our contention we would beg to refer you to the following:—

Article V. of the British Treaty of Nanking 1842.

The Government of China having compelled the British Merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants, called Hong Merchants (for Chinese) who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for this purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all ports where British Merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their Mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please; and His Imperial Majesty further agrees to pay to the British Government the sum of three millions of dollars, on account of debts due to British subjects, by some of the said Hong Merchants, on the Hong, who have become insolvent, and who owe very large sums of money to subjects of Her Britannic Majesty.

Article X. of the same Treaty:—

His Majesty the Emperor agrees to establish at all the ports which are by Article II. of this Treaty to be thrown open for the resort of British Merchants a fair and regular Tariff of Export and Import Customs and other dues, which Tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information; and the Emperor further engages that, when British Merchandise shall have once paid at any of the said ports the regulated customs and dues, agreeable of the tariff to be hereafter fixed, such merchandise may be conveyed by Chinese merchants to any province or city in the interior of the Empire of China, and paying a further amount as transit duties which shall not exceed per cent. on the tariff value of such goods.

Article XIV. of the French Treaty of Tientsin of 1858: "Aucune société de commerce privilégiée ne pourra désormais s'établir en Chine, ni il en sera de même de toute coalition organisée dans le but d'exercer une monopole sur le commerce. En cas de contravention en présence Article, les autorités chinoises, sur les représentations du consul ou de l'agent consulaire, avisent les moyens de dissoudre de semblables associations, et les autorités de la province de procéder à l'arrestation des personnes qui ont pris part à la formation de la coalition."

also to the correspondence entitled (An Opium Monopoly at Nanking) at page 3 of the Appendix to the Report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, 1907.

Finally we submit that so long as the Indian Government cultivates the growth of the Poppy and sells opium, it is logical that any interference with Treaty Rights with regard to the sale of opium in China should be taken to compel China to carry out and fulfill her Treaty obligations.

We submit, further, that the Chinese Government should not be allowed to make any regulations contrary to Treaty which will affect the free sale of opium from India, the growth of which, under agreement between the British and Chinese Governments, is to be reduced gradually over a period of years. We have &c.

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,—E. Shellim,  
E. D. SASSOON & Co.,  
E. PANANEY,  
S. J. DAVID & Co.,  
PHIROZSHA B. PETIT & Co.,—P. B. D. TATA.

TATA SONS & Co.,—P. B. D. Tata,  
P. F. TALATI,  
H. M. H. NEMAZEE,  
M. H. E. ELLIAS,  
CAWASSEE PALANJEE & Co.,

CABLE TO SIR JOHN JORDAN, C.M.G.,  
Chamber of Commerce strongly protest action Kwangtung Authorities introducing obstructive regulations and attempting opium monopoly (stop) Regulations to come into force tomorrow (stop) Action calculated very seriously affect British trade and contrary Treaty Rights (stop) Chamber's opinion is no regulations should be permitted which will restrict free sale of opium in accordance agreement between British Governments providing gradual reduction.

Letter from Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 23rd October, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has this day received a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking who states that he has made verbal representations to the Wah-wu-pu and given them a memorandum regarding the Opium Monopoly at Canton. The Wah-wu-pu have promised to telegraph instructions to the Viceroy on the subject.

I shall be obliged if you will be good enough to communicate the contents of this letter to Messrs. D. Sassoon & Co., and the

other signatories of the letter addressed to me on this subject on the 25th ultimo.—I am, &c.,  
F. H. MAY,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Reply to Government:—

Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 9th October, 1908.

SIR,—I am directed to express the thanks of my Committee for your letter of the 8th inst. having reference to the Opium Monopoly at Canton, and to state that the contents thereof have been communicated to Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., as requested.—I am, &c.,  
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,  
Colonial Secretary.

Letter to Messrs. David Sassoon & Co.,  
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 7th October, 1908.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to forward for the information of yourselves and co-signatories to the letter recently addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber on the subject of the proposed prohibition of the Provincial Government of Kwangtung regarding the sale of opium, a copy of a letter received from the Government of Hongkong in response to the cable of protest despatched by the Chamber to Sir John Jordan.—I am, &c.,  
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

Letter to Sir John Jordan:—  
Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 9th October, 1908.

SIR,—I have the honour to confirm this Chamber's cable to Your Excellency of the 14th September reading:—

"Chamber of Commerce strongly protest action Kwangtung Authorities introducing obstructive regulations and attempting opium monopoly (stop) Regulations to come into force tomorrow (stop) Action calculated very seriously affect British trade and contrary Treaty Rights (stop) Chamber's opinion is no regulations should be permitted which will restrict free sale of opium imported in accordance with agreement between British Chinese Governments providing gradual reduction."

I am directed to forward a copy of the letter and enclosure addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber by the Opium Merchants in Hongkong.

My Committee now learn with much satisfaction that the question has been successfully dealt with by Mr. Fox, H. B. M.'s Acting Consul-General at Canton.

I am directed to add that my Committee greatly appreciate the prompt action taken by Your Excellency in averting what would have been a great injury to British Trade Interests.—I have, &c.,  
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,  
Secretary.

CONFISCATED OPIUM.

SALE WILL FALL THROUGH.

There will be no opium trade between the Philippine Government and the Hongkong Opium Farm, any other dealer in the "dope" on the Chinese coast, reports the *Cable News-American*. A proposal was made to the Governor-General to the end that opium now in the possession of the Collector of Customs and any future "haul" from smugglers be exchanged for coin of the realm with either the Opium Farm or a higher bidder, but a treaty clause has popped up preventing any arrangement of the kind and the deal is "off."

The matter has been lying in suspense for some time, opinion being divided as to the morality of the proposed transaction. On the one side it was urged that a few pounds more or less would not materially alter the hitting of the pipe in Hongkong and the Chinese empire; on the other, officials loudly protested against any dope dealings whatsoever.

The Governor-General having refrained from committing himself either way, both the moralists and the "economists" are wondering how far their arguments would influence him. To-day, their speculation will cease. And at the same time it is just possible that they will still remain in doubt as to which side can claim the "moral" victory.

Somebody at the Ayuntamiento looked up the legal aspect of the question and came upon a stone wall in the shape of a clause in the treaty arrangements concluded between the Emperor of China and Uncle Samuel which forbids either the United States Government or any of its employees to introduce opium into China.

It is believed that this will put the lid down on a controversy which has been agitating officials and moralists considerably of late; and it is very likely that all confiscated opium will be turned into medical supplies through the medium of exchange now being arranged by Dr. Hyslop in the United States. The United States imports annually about 40,000 tons for pharmaceutical use and it is believed that no difficulty will be encountered in carrying this plan into execution. Since his return, Bishop Brent has given it his hearty approval.

A THIEF'S CAPTURE.

WILLY CHINAMAN ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE COMING WINTER.

16th inst.

In the Police Court, this morning, before Mr. J. H. Kemp, a coolie, who rejoices in the name of Wong Shek, was charged with breaking into No. 9, Pottinger Street, at 6 p.m. yesterday afternoon on burglary bent. Wong, who must have been fully alive to the fact that some provision against the "cold, blinding wind" of the coming winter should be made, entered a house, which is occupied by some stall-holders of the Central Market, and while the honest men were having their meal, Wong proceeded to take possession of some clothing on which his greedy optics fell. Everything would have gone well had not one of the men felt ill and suddenly returned to the scene where the thief was being committed. The thief was rudely interrupted from his task by being asked "what he was doing there and the reply his interrogator received was a gentle request to mind his own business. He had only made a mistake, which had nothing to do with the intruder. At the same time, Wong sprang at the inquisitive *foi*'s throat and grabbed it. A tussle followed, and Wong, in trying to escape, ran into the arms of a *lukung* who was waiting for him at the foot of the staircase. The next thing Wong was aware of was to feel the heavy hand of the law on his shoulder.

The method used by the defendant in entering the house is alleged to have been accomplished by picking the lock. The case was remanded.

17th inst.  
The coolie who broke into 9, Pottinger Street, on Sunday afternoon and stole clothing and other stuff to the value of \$35, was sentenced to six months' hard labour in the Police Court, to-day, by Mr. J. H. Kemp.

## A Landlord's Duty.

## NOTICE TO TENANT NECESSARY.

## IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

The Chief Justice (Sir Francis Pigott), presiding in the Supreme Court last Wednesday, gave his reserved decision in the appeal case in which the Humphreys Estate and Finance Company sought to set aside a judgment of Mr. Justice Gompertz, given against them in favour of Mr. P. W. Goldring, a solicitor, who claimed \$500 for breach of contract. It may be remembered that the complaint was that the plaintiff firm failed to comply with an agreement, whereby they undertook to keep the roof and exterior walls of the respondent's premises at Kowloon in a proper state of repair and amendment.

His Lordship dismissed the appeal with costs. In delivering his judgment the Chief Justice said:—"In this case the plaintiff was tenant for one year of a flat on the second floor of a house in Robinson Road, Kowloon, and he sued the landlord for damages to his property caused by water coming into the flat. The following facts form the basis of the judgment of the learned Justice: some of them are challenged by the notice of motion in so far as they are inferences; but we are of opinion that these inferences are sound. On 28th July the Colony was visited by a severe typhoon, causing considerable damage to buildings. After this storm the plaintiff noticed dampness in the ceiling of the verandah but this passed off and there was no leakage. The plaintiff apparently thought no more about it and did not inform the defendant company of what he had seen. On the 20th August it rained heavily all day and next morning plaintiff found water pouring through his roof and verandah wall, causing considerable damage to his personal effects. He now claims \$500 as loss suffered by him in consequence of the breach by the defendant company of their agreement to keep the premises in proper repair. No structural defect is alleged and it appears that the damage was caused by water which had leaked in from the gutter pipes blocked. These were found to be choked with rubbish and grass, leaves of trees, and 'black matter,' and also with plaster from the wall. The pipes were apparently cleared without difficulty by the plaintiff's coolie who was sent up on the roof, and the accumulated water thereupon escaped. The agreement contained the following clause:—'The landlords shall keep the roof and all exterior walls of the said premises in a proper tenable state of repair and amendment at their own cost.' The plaintiff sued for breach of this agreement and recovered \$500 damages. The defendant is now appealing from the judgment of the learned Justice. The appellants rely on the fundamental principle of law laid down by the majority of the Court of Exchequer in *Makin v. Watkinson* and since adopted by all courts that on a covenant such as this the landlord cannot be sued for non-repair, or from damages resulting from non-repair, unless he has received notice of want of repair. It is to be noted at once that there is a difference in the facts of this case and that for here the letting was of a flat and not of a whole building and it was argued that this is sufficient to take the present case out of the principle. We must therefore see what are the reasons on which this principle is based. As a matter of fact it works out not as a principle of law but as a very simple little bit of common sense. Baron Bramwell and Channell admitted that the dictum of Chief Justice Mansfield and Justice Gibbs in *Moore v. Clark* was *obiter*, but they gave judgment in precisely the same sense. The lessor may charge the lessee without notice for the repairs to be made on the spot. The lessee, on the other hand, is to be bound by the notice of the lessor, and the lessee cannot charge the lessor for breach of repairs without notice, for the lessor may not know that repairs are necessary. There was some discussion as to whether the necessary words to give effect to this idea would be incorporated into the covenant; but it was held that on the assumption that the contracting parties were reasonable men, and intended what was reasonable, it might be done. As the test of reasonableness was this, the lessor must know that repairs were necessary. I confess that I prefer the view of the old dictum to that given by Baron Bramwell that the lessor has no means of ascertaining the condition of the premises; because this assumes that 'if the lessor comes to repair when no repair is needed he will be a trespasser'; and that if he came for the purpose of looking into the state of the premises, the lessee could prevent him because that would not be a lawful cause of entry. I should have thought that a reasonable entry for the purpose of ascertaining a covenant in the lease should have been justified from the necessity of fulfilling the covenant. It might have to be by request, but if the lessor declined he certainly could not recover. But although these criticisms of some part of the reasoning on which *Makin v. 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## MORPHIA IMPORTATION.

PROHIBITION AGREED UPON BY THE POWERS.

The following letter was read at the monthly meeting of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the 12th inst.:

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
22 November, 1908.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a despatch from His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking with copy of the Notification issued by Sir J. N. Jordan to His Britannic Majesty's Consuls at the Treaty Ports in China.—I am, &c.,

(Sd.) F. H. MAY,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
The Chamber of Commerce.

(Copy).

Peking, 16th October, 1908.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir Edward Grey on the subject of the proposal of the Chinese Government to prohibit, under Article XI of the Mackay Treaty of September 5th, 1902, the importation, except for medical purposes, of morphia into this country.

On the receipt of a Note from the Waiwupin informing me that the Treaty Powers had all consented to the enforcement of the prohibition, I telegraphed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs proposing to publish a warning/notice to British subjects. I have now received Sir Edward Grey's approval of this procedure, and the notification, accordingly being issued through His Majesty's Consuls at the Treaty Ports.

A King's Regulation making the Chinese Decree of prohibition binding on British subjects will shortly be promulgated.—I have, &c.,

(Sd.) J. N. JORDAN.

His Excellency,  
Sir F. D. Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., &c.,

(Circular).

British Legation,

Peking, 10th October, 1908.

Sir,—I enclose for your information and guidance copies of correspondence with the Waiwupin in regard to Article XI of the British Chinese Treaty of September 5th, 1902 (Prohibition of the general importation of Morphia), which it has been agreed shall be brought into operation from January 1st, 1909.

You are requested to issue the notification to British subjects, which is enclosed, and to take whatever steps may be necessary to secure the proper fulfilment of the Treaty provisions pending the issue of a King's Regulation which is under consideration.—I am, &c.,

(Sd.) J. N. JORDAN.

His Majesty's Consul.

(Translation).

PRINCE CHING TO H. M. MINISTER.

Peking, 18th September, 1908.

Sir,—With reference to the question of prohibiting the importation of morphia into China I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, as a result of repeated representations on the part of this Board to the various Foreign Representatives in Peking, replies have now been received from each, signifying the concurrence of their respective Governments in such a measure; and whereas effect should be given to this decision as soon as possible, it is now intended to prohibit the importation at any Chinese port of morphia or its salts from January 1st, 1909.

As regards the supply necessary for medical purposes, the following method of procedure has been elaborated:—

"Any foreign doctor wishing to import morphia must execute a bond before his Consular authorities declaring that it is for his own use or solely for use in a specified hospital.

"Any foreign druggist wishing to import morphia must similarly execute a bond before his Consular authority, pledging himself to retail it without a foreign doctor's prescription, and even when a prescription is produced, that he will only sell small quantities.

"The Consular authority will thereupon transmit the bond and the exact details of the amount to be imported to the Imperial Maritime Customs, and when the Imperial Maritime Customs have issued a special permit the 'consignment' may be landed.

"Any infringement of the terms of the bond will render the offending party from ever obtaining permission in the future to import morphia.

"The Tariff duty to be levied on such importations will be reduced to five per cent *ad valorem*. If consignments are imported without a special permit, they will be confiscated by the Customs. Consignments already afloat previous to January 1st, 1909, will be granted a reasonable time-limit by the Imperial Maritime Customs, within which they may be imported, but such consignments will be subject to the present rate of duty and will not benefit by the reduced rate.

"Finally, whereas China agrees to prohibit the manufacture of morphia and appliances for the injection by Chinese tradespeople, the Powers also agree to prohibit the manufacture in China of morphia or appliances for its injection by any of their nationals."

The above articles represent the arrangements which were agreed upon between China and the Powers for prohibiting the morphia traffic and in committing them to Your Excellency, have the honour to request that they may be brought to the knowledge and attention of all British subjects.

While awaiting also the honour of a reply, I am, &c.,

(Sd.) PRINCE CHING.

(Copy).

British Legation,

Peking, 10th October, 1908.

Your Highness.—The contents of Your Highness' Note of September 23rd to the effect that the Treaty Powers having all agreed to its conditions, Article XI of the British Chinese Treaty of September 5th, 1902, on the subject of the prohibition of the importation of morphia would be brought into force from January 1st, 1909, were submitted by me to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by telegraph, and I am now in receipt of telegraphic instructions expressing the assent of His Majesty's Government to the course proposed by the Chinese Government.

Notifications in this sense will be issued at all His Majesty's Consulates in China as soon as practicable.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Highness the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Sd.) J. N. JORDAN.

His Highness Prince Ching.

## CHINA'S CURRENCY.

UNIFORM SILVER STANDARD.

The following letter was read at the meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on 12th inst.:

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
10th November, 1908.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 1778/1904 of the 25th August, 1904, I am directed to transmit for the information of your Chamber the enclosed copy of a despatch from Sir John Jordan dated the 22nd ult.—I am, &c.,

(Sd.) F. H. MAY,  
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,  
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

British Legation,

Peking, 22nd October, 1908.

Sir,—With reference to my despatch of 8th January last, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's copies of an Imperial Decree issued on October 5th, and of the Memorial of the Government Council upon which it was based obtaining the introduction of a uniform silver currency throughout the Empire of which a coin weighing one K'ü Ping or Treasury tael is to be the unit.

I have thought it might possibly be of use to Your Excellency and the Chamber of Commerce to have an authorized translation of these documents.—I have, &c.,

(Sd.) J. N. JORDAN.

His Excellency Sir F. D. Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., Governor and Commander-in-Chief,  
Hongkong.

DECREES.

[Peking Gazette].

5th October, 1908.

An Imperial Decree in response to a memorial of Prince Ching and other Masters of the Government Council and of Prince P'ia-lun and other Members of the Senate, who, in obedience to our Commands, have deliberated upon the subject of a uniform national currency.

A standard currency is the fundamental principle of public finance, and various countries have adopted a gold coin as their unit of value, with subsidiary currency of silver and copper tokens. Under well-framed regulations such currencies have been found convenient and profitable. But it requires years of preparation to be ready for such a measure, which can be attained at one step. The finances of China are in confusion and the standard of the currency is an urgent necessity. If actual gold coins were to be taken as the standard unit, it would be difficult to raise the necessary amount; while if gold were merely taken nominally as the standard unit, grave dangers would be incurred.—It is evident therefore that we should first standardize and render uniform the silver currency, and then carefully proceed to take measures for a further advance, with a view to securing the adoption of a gold standard in the future.

The memorialists have pointed out that the use of the tael and its fractions has been so long established that it would be difficult to substitute any other denomination in its place. The Committee of Finance in a previous memorial also recommended the determination of the tael as the silver coin to be used.

We therefore command that a large silver coin shall be struck weighing one K'ü Ping tael, and that large quantities of silver coins weighing .5 of a K'ü Ping tael shall also be minted for general convenience in use. Also minted shall be small pieces of one mace and of five candareens, of less pure silver, which will serve as subsidiary currency. The two silver coins aforesaid shall be .985 fine, while the two small silver pieces will be .880 fine.

This silver currency, except in so far as calculations under Treaties and Agreements with Foreign Powers will require to be made as before, shall be uniformly used by all Yamen, great or small, in Peking or the Provinces, all their Treasury transactions, and all allowances for difference of weight or touch, or exchange fees, &c., shall henceforth be perpetually forbidden.

Let the Governors-General and Governors of Provinces examine the conditions in their jurisdiction and devise means in conjunction with the Board of Finance for determining afresh, either by increasing or decreasing as the case may be, the allowances and rice money of territorial authorities and tax-collectors while on duty together with the expenditure for travelling on the public service, and let the rates be published openly by proclamation so that the peculations of clerks may be abolished for ever.

As regards the diversity of silver currency in the various provinces, and the differences of touch, which give dishonest traders and market dealers the opportunity for demanding discounts and profits off each transaction, grievous injury is inflicted thereby on all classes, and the Board of Finance is now commanded to issue stringent regulations forbidding such practices in the future, with the view that, in a given number of years the national silver currency may become completely uniform.

Until the new coinage has been minted in sufficient quantities the dollar and subsidiary silver pieces in use in the Provinces, as well as the sycee may be used as before, for the time being, on the market, and treasury payments may still be made in sycee for the present, but must year by year be diminished by the substitution of the new silver coins. On these questions let the Board of Finance carefully consider the circumstances and take satisfactory steps for the execution of this measure.

Let this Decree be generally circulated in all parts.

(Translation).

MEMORIAL OF GOVERNMENT COUNCIL (HUI I CHENG WU CHU) ON THE QUESTION OF A UNIFORM NATIONAL CURRENCY.

The Special Envoy to America, Tang Shao-Yi, having memorialized the Throne on September 22nd, praying that effect should be given to all the Articles of the Commercial Treaties, and that the question of currency should be speedily determined, the present memorialists were commanded to deliberate and report thereon without delay.

As the Throne is aware, the question of currency has been considered repeatedly by the high authorities in the Capital, and investigated and reported upon by all the Provincial Authorities. Special Memoranda on the subject have also been submitted by Chang Chih-tung, Lu Ch'uan-lin and Yuan Shih-k'ai, as well as by the Board of Finance; all of which, under a Decree of April 26th, were handed over to the Government Council and the Senate for consideration. All this shows sufficiently the great care which has been bestowed by the Throne on this important question.

Now, the freedom of communication throughout the world renders this question of currency of still greater import than ever before. If we were to follow the rest of the world we should adopt a gold standard. But if the present conditions prevailing in China be our guide, we should use a silver standard. Moreover, if the principle underlying the develop-

ment of currencies be examined, it will be found that between the extreme of copper and gold there must always be the intermediary stage of a silver currency, and for these reasons it is both right and suitable that China should now begin at first with a silver standard. But although the adoption of a silver currency has been unanimously advocated, there has been by no means the same unity of opinion as to whether it should be a tael of dollar currency. The present memorialists have considered this point most profoundly, and from the reports of the Governor-General and Governors of Provinces that eleven Provinces favour the tael against eight in favour of the dollar—the remainder either advocating the use of both concurrently, or proposing the introduction of a new coin of 7 mace.

They are, in his Memorial, also favoured the tael currency, and from the point of view of national dignity it seems to us that we cannot afford to throw away our sovereign rights in order to gratify the wishes of others; while from the point of view of the people we should follow a course suitable to the greater number, and not change a tradition of the country for the convenience of open ports or trading marts. This is as much a fundamental principle for our guidance in making the enactment to-day, as it will be an essential factor for the future success of the measure itself, and as we have dealt with this point in previous Memorials there is no need to elaborate it further. We now propose merely to present a few of the principal arguments on both sides in the problem of adopting a dollar or a tael currency.

From the point of view of public convenience it has been said that as a large supply of dollars already exists, it would be simpler to extend their use than to adopt a tael currency. But it must be borne in mind that in every place where dollars are used it is always a combination with sycee, and in all the places where sycee is used it by no means follows that dollars are also current.

Chinese dollars were originally coined in order to oppose the invasion of the Mexican dollar, and it seems to us that if a national currency is specially established, everyone will have perfect confidence therein.

As regards the objection that the higher denomination will tend to raise the cost of living, while a small denomination will tend to economy in prices, it must not be forgotten that besides the tael, there are there must be fractional currency, and thus a 5-mace piece will prove more convenient than one of 7 mace. Moreover the bulk of the people in their daily life mostly rely upon the copper currency, and if this has an unimpeded circulation there is no reason why habits of extravagance should be engendered.

It has been argued also that the value of a dollar approximates that of 1,000 Cash, and that with the principal and fractional coins so conveniently related calculations are simplified. But as long as the legal status of the currency are not fixed—the market rates must constantly vary, and as nearly all the public and private transactions involve exchange between silver and cash the substitution of dollar values in place of the tael would only result in producing a complication of odd fractions.

Another argument is that in all currencies coins should be reckoned by the piece and not by the weight. But just as Dollars can be reckoned by the piece, so also can faels once they are struck into coins, and while the trouble of coining and discounting will be saved, such coins will also fulfil the condition of corresponding in weight to their inscribed denomination.

To extend our argument further afield; in all our transactions with other countries, foreign obligations have always been liquidated in terms of tael. The Native Customs revenue, also, is expressed in terms of K'ü Ping taels. Foreign Commerce is carried on entirely by means of exchange calculations, and the price of the round sterling fluctuates with the state of the market. By using a tael currency transactions can all proceed as before, and the extended use of such a coin cannot fail to prove advantageous.

The coinage of a tael currency was recommended by the Council of Finance. In Hupoh and the New Dominion a tael currency has been in use for some years. The Board of Finance also held that if a silver currency were to be adopted there could be no harm in using a tael coin.

This, then, is also our present decision: and we have further adopted the suggestion of Tang Shao-Yi, to mint a large quantity of 5-mace pieces (half taels) to be of equal currency with the tael coins and to be legal tender for any amount. Besides these 2 coins we propose that there should be 1 mace and 1/2 mace (5 candareens) pieces, as subsidiary currency. These coins will in the future take the place of the 10 cent and 5 cent pieces of the past, and will prevent the rise of prices or difficulties in the daily life of the people, besides forming part of our preparations for a gold standard.

As regards the national dollar coined by the Board of Finance the year before last, as an experiment, the intention was to make use of this coin as a model for being known to the people and easy to establish. But if a uniform currency is to be sought, the standard can only be fixed after far-reaching investigation, and the present memorialists have formed the conclusion, after carefully weighing all considerations, that the long-established use of the tael and its fractions—the mace, candareen and mil—can hardly be altered or abolished.

The most suitable weight for the standard coin will be the K'ü Ping tael; and as regards the question of touch, it is remembered that from the minting regulations drawn up by the Council of Finance and submitted to the Throne, it appeared that a tael's weight of so-called "full touch" silver, as generally used throughout China, actually contained when melted only .98 or .99 of a tael of pure silver; and they proposed therefore that a tael and 5-mace pieces should be .985 fine and 1-mace and 2-mace pieces .885 fine.

The recent memorandum of the Board of Finance observes further that Chinese sycee has never actually been 100 per cent fine. Recent analysis have shown that the best does not reach .985 touch. Supposing, therefore, that coins of 100 per cent pure silver were struck, the use of broken silver could not well be suddenly abandoned as soon as the new coinage appeared, and this, together with the use of Mexican dollars and Chinese Provincial Dollars—which are all 6.66 in fineness while passing for 7.00 of pure silver would lead to illicit melting down of the heavier coin, as invariably happens under such circumstances. The memorialists of Chang Chih-tung, Lu Ch'uan-lin and Yuan Shih-k'ai have observed that, in the absence of a gold currency, the unit must be 100 per cent fine through the subsidiary coinage could be about .9 touch. But objections have not been wanting to show that a pure coin would be too soft for ordinary use.

Now it will be found that the Russian gold rouble piece weighs 6.555 grammes of which only 6 grammes is pure gold. The Japanese gold yen, again, weighs 4.32 mace, of which only 2 mace is pure gold. The remainder is alloy, but in use it all passes for pure gold. The same is found in all countries. Though we have never started a gold currency, we have temporarily used silver to take its place, we must certainly follow the same plan. From recent experiments in minting we find a silver tael coin with the addition of a 1/2 per cent alloy

makes a strong and clear ringing coin. Of course the expense of minting is to be considered, and the labour and alloy, which is estimated at 1/2 per cent, can be paid out of the profits accruing from the subsidiary coinage. If this is insufficient the profits from the copper currency could be drawn upon, and if that is still insufficient there remain the profits on the paper currency.

(The rest of the Memorial contains no further suggestions of importance.)

## PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION.

THE REUTER BROCKELMANN CASE.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

A judgment of some importance to merchants in this Colony, having reference to the old question of partnership registration, on which most of us have dealt with before, was delivered by Sir Francis Pigott (the Chief Justice) last Wednesday. The matter at issue was that in which the Kwong Wing Cheung firm of Canton, sued for an injunction to restrain Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Company, their servants, and agents from falsely representing to the German Consul at Canton, and to the Chinese authorities at Canton that certain of the partners of the Cheung Loong firm of Hongkong, sugar merchants, were also partners in the plaintiffs' firm, and from further endeavouring to enforce payment by the plaintiffs of a debt alleged to be due to the defendants by the Cheung Loong firm, by attachment of property belonging to the plaintiffs or in which they were interested. The plaintiffs claimed the sum of \$10,000 damages for alleged false representation and libel.

Readers will recollect the special jury, after considering the matter for nearly a fortnight, returned a unanimous verdict for the Chinese firm, on the ground of trespass, and awarded damages in the sum of one dollar. They agreed that nine persons were not partners in the Kwong Wing Cheung by a majority of five to two. They agreed that the three, Wong Hing-tong and two others, partners in the Kwong Hing Cheung, were partners in the Cheung Loong on February 21st, by a majority of four to three, that the defendants acted with reasonable and probable cause in alleging on February 21st, that these three men were partners in the Cheung Loong. They were also unanimous in finding that the defendants did not constitute libel, and that there should be no damages.

An appeal was then applied for and obtained, the plaintiffs giving their grounds that the verdict of the jury on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th questions submitted to them be set aside on the grounds that the verdict was contrary to the evidence, against the weight of the evidence and, perverse in that the majority of the jury were influenced by the desire not to allow the plaintiffs to have the benefit of the judgment of the honourable Court because of the accounts of the Kwong Wing Cheung firm the identity of the partners was concealed by the use of *hong* names while it was maintained by the defence that the judge was wrong in directing the jury that in consequence of the defendants not having produced the warrant of the Chinese Authorities, under which the seizure of the property of the plaintiffs had been made, they must find a verdict for the plaintiffs with damages for trespass to the goods of the plaintiffs; that inasmuch as the jury found a verdict for the defendants on all the issues of fact left to them, only found for the plaintiffs on the one issue of trespass to goods because they were directed so to do, the judge was wrong in refusing the application of the defendants for the costs of those issues which the jury had found in their favour; that the grounds upon which such refusal was based, namely, that the direction to find for the plaintiffs on the trespass issue terminated the case, and that the issues submitted thereafter were irrelevant, and therefore unnecessary, did not constitute good cause for depriving the defendants of the costs of such issues.

The Chief Justice found in favour of Reuter Brockelmann. The *Puina Junice* disagreed. In the course of a very lengthy judgment the Chief Justice said:—A certain sugar firm, the Cheung Loong, composed of two partners, Woo Yiu Nam and Loung Tsui Pang, were in business in Hongkong, and had dealings with Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann, the defendants' branch house in the Colony. At the time immediately preceding the occurrences which led to this suit, the Cheung Loong had contracted to purchase sugar to the extent of about \$50,000 from the defendants, delivery had been taken of a certain amount of the sugar, and \$5,000 had been paid on account, but a considerable quantity, 4,000 bags, had not been taken, and consequently remained in godown. On the construction of the contracts, I have no doubt that the property in this sugar had not passed to the Cheung Loong, but remained with Reuter Brockelmann and Co.; that their right was to sell the sugar speedily and obtain the best price they could, and to prove in the bankruptcy of the firm for the difference—whereby they would have received the small dividend of 30 per cent.—have to be borne further, all the parties to the transaction being within the jurisdiction of this Court, and the transaction itself having been concluded in Hongkong, that Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann and Co. were subject to the jurisdiction of this Court in the matter of this bankruptcy. This aspect of the case was not very much referred to in argument, but it is especially material for me to deal with it. All persons in the Colony, British subjects or aliens, who are creditors of a bankrupt, who before the Court in bankruptcy, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Court. There is no doubt that if assets belonging to the bankrupt are discovered in another country and a creditor endeavours to obtain them for his own benefit, the Court has some jurisdiction to control his actions, and this, if he is within the jurisdiction, whether he has proved in the bankruptcy or not. It is not necessary to define with precision to what extent that jurisdiction goes; it is sufficient to note that it exists; also that the discovery of a bankrupt in another country whose property could be brought into the bankruptcy estate for the benefit of the creditors comes within the meaning of assets as above referred to. Further it is clear that if Reuter Brockelmann and Co.'s application to the German Consul for assistance in recovering such assets in Canton came within the terms of the jurisdiction clauses of the Treaties of Tientsin, so also would an application by the Trustees in bankruptcy to the British Consul for similar assistance be within those clauses. And for myself I have no doubt whether, what Messrs. Reuter Brockelmann and Co. did in this instance was an attempt to *pass over* the Trustees in the Cheung Loong Bankruptcy. They did not prove in that bankruptcy, but endeavoured to obtain a payment of the whole sum due to them by application to the German Consul; and I have no doubt that, at least during the pendency of the bankruptcy proceedings before this Court, this was in violation of the bankruptcy laws of this Colony, under the protection of which they carry on their business in this Colony. Action of this sort is most prejudicial to the other traders of all nationalities as well as British in Hongkong; and must therefore be also highly prejudicial to the great international trade of the Colony. It is one of those "loose ends" which result from the complex jurisdiction treaties

with China, and which it would be for the benefit of all concerned in the commercial welfare of this Colony, to get rid of by putting the whole question on a more satisfactory and equitable basis. I am bound to allude to this matter, because I think it is of the utmost importance that the innumerable foreign firms who trade in this Colony should realize it. That large measure of freedom of trade and access to our Courts which has been accorded to "merchant strangers" repelling into the "realm of England," not to be described as an "open door," for since Magna Charta and the 14th year of Richard II there has never been a door to close, carries with it implicit obedience to our laws which I believe are framed in the best interests of this free commerce. It is just this which makes the difference between trading in a British Colony and trading in a Treaty Port. I think it right to add to what I have said that the error into which Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. fell, and which was the origin of all this litigation, was perhaps due to the fact that the firm trades in so many Treaty Ports in the East as well as in Hongkong, that this essential distinction between Hongkong and the rest of the East had somewhat escaped them.

His Lordship, as stated above, held that the appellants should win, while Mr. Justice Gompertz arrived at a different opinion. A stay of execution was asked for, and obtained. Counsel were as follows:—For the plaintiffs—Mr. M. W. Studd, assisted by Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, for the defendants—Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Sir Henry Barkley, K.C., instructed by Mr. E. P. M. Laing, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon.

## REPAIRING A CLUB-HOUSE.

ATTEMPTS AT SETTLEMENT A FAILURE.

The claim brought by the master of the Ham Sun Wing firm of contractors, 119, Des Voeux Road Central, against Mr. Tang Chee, otherwise Dang Chee, secretary of the Kowloon Cricket Club, to recover the sum of \$244.03, balance due in respect of a contract for the construction of the club-house, and as to \$244.03 for extra work done, was continued before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Summary Court, last Thursday.

Mr. F. W. Goldring (who appeared for the defendant) said that he thought the case was in the course of settlement a couple of days ago, but the plaintiff had gone back on his word. It was agreed by the parties that \$400 should be paid down, the work to be continued, and each side to pay their own costs. In consequence of this Mr. Goldring was not able to file his counter-claim. He did not want to cast any aspersions on his friend, but he thought that somebody in his office was stirring up this trouble.

Mr. Davidson (for plaintiff) maintained that what his friend had said were *ex parte* statements. He did not know when this alleged settlement took place. The plaintiff said that Mr. Hareland, the architect, approached him to make the offer for settlement. That was ridiculous. His client was entitled to judgment in the absence of Mr. Goldring's counter-claim, because his friend had admitted everything in Chambers. It was absurd for the plaintiff to come to a settlement when he did not know what was the state of the counter-claim. He had advised his client to come to no settlement. Why did not his friend file his counter-claim on Tuesday?

Mr. Goldring stated that the reason was because he was given to understand that the matter would be settled.

Mr. Davidson did not know what was the inner history of his friend's case. There was no agreement to withdraw the case. If the defendant had any sort of a case there would not be any imbecile to settle.

Mr. Goldring said that there was always friendly connections between the parties and somebody started to formalize this state of affairs. Previous to this the parties did not want any solicitors in the matter as there was an understanding between them.

Mr. Davidson—I should never agree to anything that doesn't give my client his costs. Mr. Justice Gompertz—Is the work finished? Mr. Davidson—Not yet. We are under no obligation to continue with the work; but when we are paid we will do so.

Further discussion followed on the allegation that a settlement was reached, also the authority of Mr. Hareland to approach the plaintiff to settle was questioned.

Mr. E. M. Hareland stated that up to the time of the issuance of the writ there was no trouble between the parties; no intention to sue. In connection with this work the plaintiff was always told to complete his contract and he would be paid. Overtures for a settlement of the claim were made by the plaintiff to the witness in his office after the writ had been issued.

The agreement was that he was to be paid \$500 on account; the rest to be paid when the contract was completed. Witness was doing other work for plaintiff—making plans for soap factory at Mong-kok-tai. The settlement, however, fell through between plaintiff and the defendant.

Cross-examined, witness said that it would cost \$200 to complete the rest of the work. He remembered Mr. Davidson calling at his office one day this week to get a copy of the contract. He only said that the drains could be put right in six hours, but not the other work. The drain work would cost \$50. The cricket club was not a very large building and he would cost \$180 to put on hinges and bolts to the windows and doors and to replace the planking he reason why the certificate was issued was because it was nearing a Chinese festival and complainant, being hard pressed, wanted money. Witness was not a member of the Kowloon Cricket Club. The plaintiff was an honest man and witness trusted his word, the reason why he issued the certificate for the payment to him of the plaintiff's claim was because he never looked at the clock when his clients visited him. Witness had the authority of the defendant to settle the matter.

The case was further adjourned until next week when the evidence will be taken.

## GOLF.

The monthly competition against Bogey for the Saunders' Farewell Cup was played at Happy Valley between the 14th and 16th November. The following cards were returned:

SAUNDERS' FAREWELL CUP.

Capt. Murray ..... 9 one up  
A. N. Weston ..... 12 all square  
E. J. Gint ..... 12 all square  
C. E. H. Beavis ..... 12 all square  
M. H. Boyes ..... 12 all square  
M. H. Penfold ..... 12 two down  
W. J. Gresson ..... 12 four down  
W. C. D. Turner ..... 7 four down  
28 entries.

POOL.

M. A. Murray ..... 5 four up  
T. S. Forrest ..... 12 all square  
E. Davidson ..... 9 one down  
D. W. Graham ..... 12 one down  
W. J. Gresson ..... 12 four down  
A. J. Gint ..... 12 four down  
15 entries.  
Winner of Cup 4 Winner of Pool  
Two cards disqualified.

## FIRE AT WHAMPONG.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION OUTTED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 16th November.

Shortly after seven o'clock in the evening of the 14th instant a fire broke out in the Wireless Telegraph Station at Whampoa, through some unknown cause. The flames continued to burn for fully two hours until 9 p.m. and cast a lurid light visible a great distance around. The whole of the station premises was gutted and two of the operators are said to have been burnt to death. At the time, the wind was blowing very hard, and the conflagration spread over a large area, and destroyed some twenty huts of the boat people in the neighbourhood.

## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

SEVENTH CONGRESS IN 1909.

The following letter from the London Chamber was laid before the general committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce on 12th inst.:

Oxford Court, Cannon Street,  
London, E., 26th June, 1901.

Dear Sir,—The majority of Chambers having given their vote in favour of accepting the invitation to hold the next Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in Australia, the Congress Organising Committee in London recently confirmed this choice, and notified the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia accordingly.

The draft of the general programme of events has now been received by the London Chamber from the Hon. William Knox, Chairman of the Organising Committee in Australia, as follows:—

(a) The Congress will be held in Sydney about 14th September, 1909.

(b) The Federal Reception and sub-Congress will be held in Melbourne about 28th September.







## CANTON DAY BY DAY.

**NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.**

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 12th November.

A despatch has been received by the V. from Peking informing him of the date for the closing and re-opening of the seals in the yamens during the Chinese New Year vacation. The official seals will be on the 19th day of the 12th moon this year will be re-posed on the 19th day of the 1st moon next year for the transaction of business. The Viceroy has issued a notification to

**A WILD GOOSE HUNT.**

The Kwangchow Brigadier General, was accompanied by Colonel Lu Chuen-wei a few days ago to proceed to the N district on an expedition to hunt down the robber chief, Luk Lan Ching, who was said to be hiding there. He returned to Canton yesterday after a fruitless chase.

**ROBBERY IN HONAM.**

During the last two weeks several robberies have been reported to have taken place in Honam, so the Taotai of Constabularies has given instructions to the Honam police to increase the number of police in order

**PADDY CULTIVATION.**  
Expectant Magistrate, Chan Kat Ching, has been deputed by the Viceroy to proceed to Szechuan to study the method of cultivating paddy and other cereals with the view of introducing the best methods into Kwangtung.

**A DEPARTING OFFICIAL.**  
The ex-Tartar General, King Fung, leaves here to-morrow by the gunboat "Hsueh Tsu" for Tsingtao, where he will spend a few days until the departure of the German steamer *Keung Tsch* by which he will proceed to Shanghai as *commandant*. According to the official cable, all the officials in the city will assemble at the Tien Sze Wharf to-morrow morning to bid good-bye to the departing official.

him to convey their respects to their Ma-  
the Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

**AN OPIUM-SMOKING OFFICIAL.**  
Another opium-smoking official, by  
Lau Hing Low, of the Land Tax Bureau  
Nanhai district, has been removed from  
by order of the Provincial Treasurer for  
still addicted to the drug.

13th November

**VICEROY INDISPOSED.**  
H.E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chun is indis-  
today and was unable to grant any inter-  
to his subordinates.

**ANTIMONY ORE.**  
The output of antimony ore of the Ching-min mines in the Kuei Kong district

**ROBBER GANG CAPTURED.**

A few days ago eleven robbers, together with a number of rifles and cartridges were captured by officer Lam Sau Chun in Wei.

**FLOOD RELIEF.**

A sum of \$15,000 has been received by the Central Relief Committee from the Government of Peru towards the flood relief of the Chinese in that country.

**ASSISTING THE PYASANTRY.**

Yesterday, a quantity of 5,000 catties of rice was sent to the Yan Ping district and a quantity of 1,500 catties to San Ning. The neighbouring districts for distribution to the peasantry to sow during the winter season in the devastated area.

**CHEAP RICE.**

The distribution of cheap rice to the lower classes of the people in Can

continued some three months ago, consideration of the large number by the recent disastrous flood. The Relief Committee is again of revive the cheap sale of rice to the unfortunate by importing rice direct to from Wuhu. A petition has been presented to Viceroy, informing H.E. that at present flood sufferers are estimated at some and, on an average, each of them consumes at least twenty-two catties of rice a month. The sale of cheap rice in the same manner as befall the unfortunate, is now proposed for a period of eight months terminating on moon next Chinese year, and for this a quantity of a million piculs of rice is re-

In the petition the Viceroy was requested to memorialise the Imperial Government for sanction to exempt this staple food from dues on exportation from Wuhu to Canton. H.E. was also requested to instruct the Hou Chu to issue to the Central Relief 200 *huchan* (passes) each to cover 5,000 *tan*. The Viceroy has promised the Charitable Committee to obtain the Imperial sanction to exemption of *likin* dues on rice from W. Canton to meet the urgent requirements of flood sufferers.

**FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES.**

The officials of the Shiu Hing Free harbor trust, the Canton River Commission, have agreed to contribute towards applying for a loan of \$200,000 to effect the sale of cheap rice there to the unfortunate sufferers by the recent disastrous floods.

H.E. Vicerey Chang Jen Chen is despatching a tour of inspection of these districts which have been devastated by the floods.

**FATSHAN-KONGMONG RAILWAY.**

The Canton-Hankow Railway Company engineers have completed a survey proposed line between Fatshan and Kongmong and to be extended to the city of a distance of 55 miles. The Government has now forwarded a plan of the construction of the line to the Vicerey for his approval and sanction. It is expected that the project will be carried out at the same time, to protect the

**PRECAUTIONARY COMMANDS.**  
As a precautionary step to prevent a break of riots in Canton by the Japanese agitators, after the example of the massacre of the "Dare Death Society" (the Vicars) in addition to giving instructions to the

of Constabulary to exercise his best efforts to secure efficient patrol of the city, issued a proclamation to warn the public not to create disturbance, and that no trader should be in with one another in transacting business at the same to keep the public peace.

**OPIUM SMOKERS FINED.**

Yesterday, the police raided a house at Wah street and arrested eleven opium smokers without licences. These offenders were fined from \$2 to \$50 each.

16th November

**THE EMPEROR'S DEATH.**

No official report has yet been received from Canton of the death of the Emperor and Crown Dowager of China. All the newspapers are waiting for the news.

come from private sources. The information  
are therefore, in a state of suspense and  
undetermined inquiries have been made  
High Authorities for confirmation  
new which is being discussed in the  
quarter of the city. The death of both  
the following each other in a

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

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**Post-Marketing Promotion**







# The Hongkong Telegraph.

(ESTABLISHED 1881.)

NEW SERIES No. 5932

第八十月十年四十三緒光

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1908.

大拜禮 號一十月一十英港香

\$30 PER ANNUM.  
SINGLE COPY, 10 CENTS.

## Banks.

### HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... \$15,000,000  
RESERVE FUNDS .....  
Sterling £1,500,000 at 2/- = \$15,000,000  
Silver ..... \$14,000,000  
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$15,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:  
E. Sheffer, Esq., Chairman.  
Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Deputy Chairman.  
E. G. Barrett, Esq.  
G. F. Friesland, Esq.  
O. S. Gubbay, Esq.  
W. Helms, Esq.  
O. R. Leumann, Esq.  
R. Shewan, Esq.  
Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slader.  
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CHIEF MANAGER:  
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MANAGER:  
Shanghai—W. ADAMS ORAM.  
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.  
HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED:  
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS:  
For 3 months, 2½ per cent. per annum.  
For 6 months, 3 per cent. per annum.  
For 12 months, 4 per cent. per annum.  
J. R. M. SMITH,  
Chief Manager.  
Hongkong, 15th October, 1908. [24]

### INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

CAPITAL PAID UP ..... GOLD \$3,250,000  
ABOUT MEX \$7,222,222  
RESERVE FUND ..... GOLD \$3,250,000  
ABOUT MEX \$7,222,222

HEAD OFFICE:  
60 WALL STREET, NEW YORK.

LONDON OFFICE:  
THREADEMERE HOUSE, E.C.

LONDON BANKERS:  
BANK OF ENGLAND.  
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.  
THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LTD.

BRANCHES AND AGENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE Corporation transacts every Description of Banking and Exchange Business, receives Money in Current Account at the rate of 2½ per cent. on daily balances and accepts Fixed Deposits at the following rates:—  
For 12 months 4½ per cent. per annum.  
" 6 " 4 " " " "  
" 3 " 3 " " " "

No. 9, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong.

W. M. ANDERSON,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 8th April, 1908. [25]

### THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1853.  
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... £1,200,000  
RESERVE FUND ..... £1,200,000  
RESERVE LIABILITIES OF PROPRIETORS ..... £1,200,000

INTEREST ALLOWED ON CURRENT ACCOUNT at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balances.  
On Fixed Deposits for 12 months, 4½ per cent. " 6 " 4 " " " " 3 " 3 " " " "

JOHN ARMSTRONG,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 13th May, 1908. [29]

### NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ.

(Netherlands Trading Society.)

ESTABLISHED 1824.

PAID-UP CAPITAL Fl. 45,000,000 (£3,750,000).  
RESERVE FUND Fl. 5,752,884.84 (about £479,407).

Head Office—AMSTERDAM.

Head Agency—BATAVIA.

BRANCHES—Singapore, Penang, Shanghai, Rangoon, Samarang, Sourabaya, Cheribon, Tegal, Pecalongan, Paseroean, Tjilatjap, Padang, Medan (Deli), Palembang, Kotabradja (Achene), Bandjermasin, Correspondents at Macassar, Bombay, Colombo, Madras, Pondicherry, Calcutta, Bangkok, Saigon, Halphong, Hanou, Amoy, Yokohama, Kobe, Melbourne, Sydney, New York, San Francisco, etc.

LONDON BANKERS:  
THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

THE Bank buys and sells and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues letters of credit on its Branches and correspondents in the East, on the Continent, in Great Britain, America, and Australia, and transacts banking business of every description.

INTEREST ALLOWED:  
On Current Accounts 2½ per cent. on daily balances.  
Fixed Deposits 12 months 4½ per cent. " 6 " 4 " " " 3 " 3 " " " "

J. L. VAN HOUTEN,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, 16th July 1908. [28]

## Banks.

### YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

CAPITAL PAID-UP ..... Yen 24,000,000  
RESERVE FUNDS ..... 15,100,000

Head Office—YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies.

TOKIO. CHEFOO.  
KOBE. TIENSIN.  
OSAKA. PEKIN.  
NAGASAKI. NEWHONGWANG.  
LONDON. DALNY.  
LYONS. PORT ARTHUR.  
NEW YORK. ANTUNG.  
SAN FRANCISCO. LIOYANG.  
HONOLULU. MUKDEN.  
HOMBAI. TIE-LING.  
SHANGHAI. CHANG-CHUN.  
HANKOW.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED:  
On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On fixed deposit:—  
For 12 months ..... 5½ per cent.  
" 6 " ..... 5 " "  
" 3 " ..... 4½ " "

TAKBO TAKAMIOHI,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 12th September, 1908. [23]

### HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 2½ per cent. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option, balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 per cent. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,  
J. R. M. SMITH,  
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1907. [28]

### DEUTSCH ASIATISCHE BANK.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID-UP—Sh. Taels 7,500,000

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: BERLIN.

BRANCHES:  
Berlin, Calcutta, Hankow, Haikow, Kobe, Peking, Singapore, Tientsin, Tientsin, Yokohama.

FOUNDED BY THE FOLLOWING BANKS AND BANKERS:

Koenigliche Seehandlung (Preussische Staatsbank)  
Direction der Disconto-Gesellschaft  
Deutsche Bank  
S. Bleichroeder  
Berliner Handels-Gesellschaft  
Bank fuer Handel und Industrie  
Robert Warshawsky & Co.  
Mendelssohn & Co.  
M. A. von Rothschild & Soehne  
Frankfurt  
Jacob S. H. Stern  
Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg, Hamburg.  
Sal. Oppenheim Jr. & Co., Koeln.  
Bayerische Hypothek und Wechselbank, Muenchen.

LONDON BANKERS:  
Messrs. N. M. ROTHSCHILD & SONS.  
THE UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.  
DEUTSCHE BANK (BERLIN), LONDON AGENCY,  
DIRECTION DER DISCONTO GESELLSCHAFT.

INTEREST allowed on Current Account. DEPOSITS received on terms which may be learned on application. Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

A. KOEHN,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 4th December, 1907. [39]

## Intimations.

### THE SAVOY,

13, Queen's Road Central,  
NEXT DOOR TO  
CONNAUGHT HOUSE HOTEL.

The Proprietors of the above High Class Tailoring, Hosiery, etc., Establishment, beg to notify the Public and their Numerous Customers that a Clearance Sale of their new and varied stock is now being held.

Prices have been considerably marked down for CASH.  
Stocks consist of Morley's Hosiery, the Celebrated "W. B." Corsets, and the well known Boots and Shoes by the Regal Shoe Co.

In addition to the above there are many Side Lines marked at most moderate prices, which cannot fail to be of interest, and an inspection is earnestly invited.

All our goods are sold at COST PRICE.  
Hongkong, 29th October, 1908. [633]

## MUSIC LESSON.

LESSONS in Violin, Mandoline and Guitar at pupils' residence.  
Evening engagements for Dances and Concerts.

Apply to—  
E. J. LOPES,  
Of the Hongkong Telegraph Office.  
Hongkong, 5th March, 1908. [194]

## Mails.

### PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR STEAMERS TO SAIL ON REMARKS.  
SHANGHAI {DEVANHA ..... About 26th Nov. {Freight and Passage.  
LONDON, &c., via usual Ports {OCEANA ..... Noon, 28th Nov. {See Special Advertisement.  
LONDON AND ANTWERP VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID {SOMALI ..... 2nd Dec. {Freight and Passage.  
AND MARSEILLES {Capt. A. G. Cabrit, R.N.R.  
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE & NILE ..... About 6th Dec. {Freight and Passage.  
Capt. E. P. Martin, R.N.R.

For Further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1908. [7]

## Intimations.

### LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FOWNE'S

GLOVES.

WHITE KID.

GREY SUEDE.

\$1.50 and \$2.50 pair.

\$2.50 pair.

DOGSKIN  
BUCKSKIN.

GAZELLE  
CHAMOIS.

DUSTLESS DOESKIN GLOVES.

\$2.00 per pair.

A NEW STOCK OF

SILK, LACE, & KNITTED TIES.

DRESS SHIRTS & COLLARS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

CHAMPAGNES.

LOUIS REAU,  
PAUL DOMMIER & CO.  
DUC DE MONTBELLLO,  
IRROY & CO.,  
LANSON PERE ET FILS,  
POL ROGER,  
GIESLER & CO.,  
BOLLINGER & CO.,  
DOMMIER & GRENOL.

Telephone No. 75.

CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Hongkong, 4th November, 1908. [140]

"A Country Girl."

Hongkong, 19th November, 1908. [199]

## Hotel.

### HOTEL PLEASANTON,

No. 17 Water Street, Yokohama.

FIRST CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL—Newly Opened and Furnished Suites or Single

Rooms, Private Baths, Modern Sanitary Fittings, Electric Light, Up-to-date Appointments, Renowned Cuisine, Dark Room for Photographers. Charges Moderate.

HENRY LUTZ,  
MANAGER.

Hongkong, 16th July, 1908. [64]

## Shipping Steamers

### HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO

AND

### WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF

THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND  
THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

### HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

S.S. "HONAM" 2,303 Tons, "FATSHAN" 2,260 Tons, "KINSHAN" 1,995 Tons.  
"HEUNGSHAN" 1,995 Tons.

Departures from Hongkong to Canton daily at 8 A.M. (Sunday excepted), 10 P.M. (Saturday excepted).

Departures from Canton to Hongkong daily at 8 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. (Sunday excepted). These Steamers, carrying His Majesty's Mails, are the largest and fastest on the River. Special attention is drawn to their Superior Saloon and Cabin Accommodation.

SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.

### HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. "SUI-TAI" 1,205 Tons and "SUI-AN" 1,205 Tons.

Departures from Hongkong to Macao on week days at 8 A.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf and at 2 P.M. from the Company's Wharf.

REDUCED SALOON RATES AT WEEK-END.

Saturday A.M. or P.M. departure, returning Sunday A.M. or P.M. .... \$5.00  
Do. do. do. do. Monday do. .... \$6.00

### CANTON-MACAO LINE.

S.S. "HOI SANG."

Departures from MACAO to CANTON on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9 P.M.

Departures from CANTON to MACAO on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 5 P.M.

JOINT SERVICE OF

HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.,  
THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD., AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

### CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.

S.S. "SAINAM," 588 Tons, and "NANNING," 569 Tons.

One of the above steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 8 A.M., and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8:30 A.M. Round trips take about 5 days. These vessels have Superior Cabin Accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity.

## Excursion to Macao.

On SUNDAY, 22nd November.

S.S. "SUI-AN"

will depart from the COMPANY'S WING LOK STREET WHARF, at 9 A.M.

Departure from Macao at 5 P.M.

Popular Excursion Rates as usual.

Machado's String Band will play selections of Music during the trip.

N.B.—The Company also runs a steamer from Macao on Sunday morning at 7:30 A.M. and from Hongkong at 1 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LD.,

HOTEL MANSIONS, (FIRST FLOOR),

opposite the Hongkong Hotel. [6]

## Hotels.

### HONGKONG HOTEL.

FIRST CLASS AND UP-TO-DATE.

Military Band during dinner on Saturday Nights.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1907.

A. F. DAVIES,  
Manager. [1]

FOR

LUXURY, COMFORT & FRESH-  
NESS, QUIET & EXCELLENT  
CUISINE

STAY AT THE

### GRAND CARLTON HOTEL.

Hongkong, 10th November, 1908. [790]

### ASTOR HOUSE

(LATE CONNAUGHT HOTEL)

QUEEN'S ROAD, HONGKONG.

CENTRALLY situated, up-to-date Hotel. Recently renovated, and under entirely New Management. Large and Comfortable Rooms, Excellent Cuisine and separate Tables, Hot and Cold Baths, Electric Light throughout. Terms moderate. First Class accommodation for Families and Tourists.

Under Personal Supervision of  
L. GAMEAU,  
Proprietor.

N. BLUMENTHAL,  
Manager.

Telephone, 170. Telegrams "Astor."

[194]











## Intimations.

## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS,  
& Co., & Co., & Co.BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE  
GOVERNOR AND HOUSEHOLD.WATSON'S BALSAM OF ANISEED,  
\$0.50 and \$1.00.A reliable remedy for all severe, acute,  
chronic, and lingering coughs and colds.  
Relieves hoarseness, sore throat, tickling  
in the throat, and difficulty in breathing.WATSON'S COLD CURE TABLETS,  
\$0.60.Speedily relieves influenza, cold in the  
head, sneezing, &c.WATSON'S COUGH LOZENGES,  
\$0.75.For alleviation of bronchitis, hoarseness,  
coughs, asthma, colds, and disorders of  
the throat and lungs.WATSON'S  
WILD CHERRY COUGH SYRUP,  
\$0.75.

Highly recommended.

WATSON'S EMBROUATION,  
\$0.60.For colds in the chest, bronchitis, sore  
throat, &c.A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED,  
ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS,  
AND  
KOWLOON DISPENSARY,  
Hong Kong, 23rd October, 1908.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1908

CURRENCY QUESTION IN  
SINGAPORE.

In previous issues of the *Telegraph* we have referred to the opposition of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council to the new Currency Note Amendment Ordinance, particularly with regard to the manner in which the gold reserve against the issue should be held. The leader of the opposition throughout has been Mr. T. S. Baker, the manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Singapore, and a very truculent and vigorous opponent to the measure he has proved. In moving the rejection of the second reading of the Bill on the 13th inst., Mr. Baker was in his element and that his capacity as a fighting member is appreciated by his friends and admirers was shown by the presence in the "gallery" of the managers of practically all the banks having agencies in Singapore besides a large number of leading commercial men in the Settlement. People in the South are quite alive to the importance of their own interests, politically speaking, and make no pretence of being otherwise. If the same watchful attitude were to be found in Hongkong the legislative life of the Colony would be endowed with a new stimulus and would greatly assist the Government itself in arriving at a true estimate of the general feeling prevailing in the community on the burning questions of the day. But Singapore has long offered a lead to Hongkong in this respect, a lead which, however, has seldom been taken. That is by the way, of course, and we now propose to indicate briefly the points on which the unofficial members, as represented by Mr. Baker, objected to the proposals of the Government as contained in this exceedingly contentious Bill. It was claimed, at the outset, that the Bill had four main objects. The first of those was to invest the Commissioners with power to tamper with exchange by issuing notes in the Colony in exchange for gold paid to the Crown Agents in London, at a rate of not less than 2s. 4d., nor more than 2s. 4s. 6d. The next object was to provide for the holding, as far as possible, in London, instead of in Singapore, the note guarantee fund. The third object was to build up a gold standard reserve—a most commendable object—but instead of holding that fund in gold the intention was to invest it in securities, and that was not at all commendable.

The fourth object of the new Ordinance was to make it lawful for the Currency Commissioners to hold demonetised dollars at a false value or, in other words, at their face value in the coin portion of the currency note fund, and to hold similar demonetised dollars, not at a false value nor at their face value, but at their bullion value, or their intrinsic value in the gold standard reserve fund. After referring to two provisions in the original Ordinance to the effect that notes should be issued in Singapore in exchange for dollars in the Colony at 2s. 4d. per dollar, while the other was to issue notes in the Settlement in exchange for gold, in London, at 2s. 4s. 6d., with the permission of the Treasurer, Mr. Baker proceeded to suggest one or two alterations in the correspondence regarding the amendment of the Ordinance, as laid before the Council in 1903. Among the suggestions he mentioned was that the value of the single operation under section 7 (b) be altered from £50,000 to £40,000, and he proceeded to point out that the Treasurer observed that the second part of section 7 (1) was made use of only on one occasion. But he submitted that no stronger argument in favour of that section could possibly be adduced in that it had only been used once; that, so to speak, they had managed their currency affairs so well that they had only, on one occasion, reached danger point in the course of two years and a half; they had only reached, as it were, the brink of the precipice. The Treasurer deplored apparently the fact that once only had they arrived at the point which enabled him to put £40,000 in London; he would like them to be at that point continually so that all their sovereigns would be in London, yet it would be seen from the correspondence that the main object of the Treasurer was to keep exchange at 2s. 4d., and it struck him there was a great deal of inconsistency about that. Mr. Baker made a curious allusion to a bank in Singapore which, on one occasion, when its funds had fallen short of requirements and when it was called upon to disgorge money, which it was alleged was really clearing account money, with which it had been carrying on business, went to the Treasurer and made representations which were calculated to upset the currency system. It is, as will be seen, all very obscure and difficult to analyse, but no doubt the inner meaning was clear to the members. They were all aware, Mr. Baker continued, that since October, 1907, the Straits Settlements had passed through what he thought was probably the worst experience of their existence. They had lost millions of money on paper and, on general authority, it was stated that four millions had been lost in cash through speculations in tin at Penang, while three millions were dropped on exchange in Singapore. If the people of the Straits Settlements lost seven millions of dollars how was it thought they were going to pay, except by exporting their money? It was really that loss which was answerable for the £300,000 telegraphic transfer on London, as mentioned in the memorandum of the Treasurer. The great crime was that the banks imported into Singapore a million pounds in gold because the balance in trade called for such a step, and when the reverse condition existed there was an exportation. Then what Chinese lost over speculation, say £300,000, had to be remitted home. The speaker went on to say that he was not defending the position of the banks, but arguing in favour of the system of holding the gold standard reserve in gold instead of in reserve. It will be seen that the question is involved in technicalities and side-issues which we must confess are beyond us, but the position as summarised by the *Straits Times* from the Governor's statement may clear the air and enable the plain reader to understand the situation. The *Times* remarks: It has to be borne in mind that although gold has been made legal tender in the Colony it is not legal tender in the same sense as in England where a creditor is empowered to refuse any other tender than gold beyond a sum of forty shillings. Here, in Singapore, silver is legal tender for any debt to any amount, and there is accordingly no need whatever to have gold in the Colony to meet any demands for purposes of local circulation. It does not, in point of fact, circulate at all in the ordinary sense. The purpose of the gold standard reserve is not to provide a circulating medium in the Colony but to enable business transactions with other countries, especially those which are gold using, to be settled without the heavy losses which were inevitable in consequence of the great variations which take place in the ratio of value between the white and the yellow metals. Now, it is perfectly obvious that for all these international settlements it is quite unnecessary to go to the expense of bringing gold to Singapore and then sending it back again. That, as the Governor pointed out, is a costly business, not unattended with some serious risks. London is the world's Clearing House, and precisely the same benefit is conferred upon the commercial classes by having the reserve there as by having it in the Colony. The benefit is, indeed, greater, for it must be pretty obvious that a system which is

pensive to the Government is expensive also to those who have to pay most of the taxes which it is necessary for Government to impose. But the banks are in a different position. Gold is one of the commodities in which they deal, and they can secure a far higher rate of interest for it at one place than at another under certain conditions—as, for example, those which prevailed in India towards the end of 1906, and in the United States at a later date. If they can get the Commissioners of Currency in Singapore to import considerable stocks of gold, and to deal it out to them which they think fit to make a demand, obviously they will enjoy an advantage, but it is one in which the general commercial community do not participate. The *Times* ends up with this observation: Any experienced business man who considers the matter quite independently will have no difficulty in concluding that he will be as secure from variations of exchange as hitherto, and probably more secure than if the Government failed to take the best possible means of firmly establishing its reserve.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

At 3.30 p.m. to-day the typhoon Black Cone signal pointed downwards and the Drum was hoisted.

THE Ministry of War has decided to establish an arsenal in Taiyuan (capital of Shanxi) and it is stated that Mr. Fang Tsung-jin will be appointed Superintending Engineer.

LOK Cheung, of No. 184, Third Street, received six weeks' hard labour at the Police Court this morning for stealing \$5 from an amah employed at 100, N. 100th Street.

THE Central Government has informed the Viceroy and Governors of provinces that officials who are able to stop the cultivation of poppy in their districts within one year will be rewarded.

Four stowaways on board the s.s. *Suave* who tried to obtain a free passage at the expense of the ship owners found out their mistake at the Police Court this morning by being awarded six months each.

H. E. HSU SHIH-CHANG, Viceroy of Manchuria, will leave Mukden, on tour, at the beginning of next month, first visiting Heilungkiang, the most northerly of the Three Eastern Provinces. He will then visit Kirin. It is stated that the tour will occupy about four weeks.

A TELEGRAM was received at Shanghai on Saturday announcing that H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, Grand Master of English Freemasonry, had been pleased to appoint Mr. Bro. Robert S. Ivy, District Grand Master of Northern China, in place of R. Wor. Bro. W. H. Anderson resigned.

AFTER further tests in private at Shanghai Captain Price has found that his airship has not sufficient lifting power and he has decided to increase the size of the balloon by adding eight feet of silk, giving an extra capacity of about 2,000 feet of gas, which is estimated to be ample for the requirements of all weathers.

THE N. C. D. News is informed by the General Agent of the Matichappi lot-Miju-Bosch-on Landbouwexploitatie in Langkat that, according to a telegram received from Sumatra, oil has been found on the Soengai Rajah Concession in Aceh. A circular letter regarding this matter will be sent to shareholders as soon as possible.

HIS Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 14 of 1908, entitled An Ordinance to amend The Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and The Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance, 1903, and to make better provision for the preservation of the Public Health.

AN embezzlement case covering the large sum of \$50,000 is to be heard next Wednesday. The defendant in this case is Choy Ming Shek, cashier of No. 745 Bonham Street West, in the employ of the I On Marine and Fire Insurance Co., and the charge against him is the alleged embezzlement of the above sum received by him between the 1st of April last and the 19th inst.

At St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, to-morrow, (D.V.) the Holy Communion will be administered at 8 a.m.; Morning Prayer and Sermon at 11 a.m.; Sunday School at 3 p.m.; Evening Prayer and Sermon at 6 p.m., when the Rev. G. Q. Bunbury will officiate and preach. The offertories will be in aid of the Church Maintenance Fund, which is in debt to the Treasurer and has heavy claims to meet in the near future.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased, with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to appoint Mr. J. H. Kemp to be Postmaster General, Mr. J. H. Kemp to be Head of the Sanitary Department, Mr. J. R. Wood to be Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, Supreme Court, and Mr. C. N. Orme to be Assistant Land Officer for the Southern District of the New Territories, with effect from 18th inst.

It is understood that the native money market in Hankow is in some danger of a panic, and that several banks have suspended payment. One bank manager is said to have committed suicide. It is reported that the managers of three other native banks have been arrested, in view of this state of affairs the Viceroy at Wuchang has requested the Chamber of Commerce in Hankow to devise methods to remedy matters, in order to avoid the threatened financial crash.

THE "Healthiest" Seaport in the Orient is Kobe, Japan. The finest Hotel east of Suez has recently been opened there—the Tor Hotel, Ltd. See circular enclosed with this issue for full particulars, and if you contemplate a trip to Sunny Japan keep it by you.

## INSPECTOR RITCHIE'S PROSPECTIVE RETIREMENT.

Much regret will be felt by a large number of the law-abiding members of the community that one of the most genial and popular officers of the Police Force in Hongkong has decided to retire after an honourable career extending over seventeen years.

First Class Inspector A. Ritchie, who, like many of his immediate colleagues, is the son of the land o' cakes, has decided to take advantage of his well-earned pension while yet in the prime of his vigour. Whether he will return to his native country and settle down there for good, or whether he will exercise his special talents in another sphere has not yet, we understand, been determined; but whatever he goes he will carry with him the esteem and regard of his "brother officers," as well as the friendship of the many civilians with whom he has been brought into social contact. So far his arrangements are to proceed to the Homeland on one of the mail steamers sailing in the early part of next month.

## CANTON DAY-BY-DAY.

## PRISONERS' ESCAPE.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 20th November.

On the afternoon of the 15th instant, while warders were at their supper, eighteen prisoners in the cells of the Shuntak Magistracy effected their escape by climbing over the wall of the prison. It is feared that the magistrate in charge will receive severe punishment in consequence of this incident.

## OPIMUM MONOPOLISTS' PETITION.

The monopolists of the prepared opium farm in Canton have petitioned the authorities requesting them to modify the rule that opium smokers are allowed to buy opium only once a day in the regulations recently promulgated for opium licences, and to allow the licensees to buy opium more than once instead, so that they may not suffer heavy losses. So far, the officials have not yet given a reply to the petitioners. It is not likely that the officials will acquiesce in the petitioners' request and alter the rule as is desired.

## FIRE.

Three days ago, half-a-dozen shops were totally gutted owing to an outbreak of fire in the port of Koonmoon through the careless use of kerosene oil. The shops burnt down chiefly dealt in bamboo and wooden articles; when these combustible goods were in the height of the conflagration, fears were entertained by the local residents that a large portion of the port would be destroyed, as the north wind was then blowing very hard.

## A WISE PRECAUTION.

It is ascertained that H. E. Viceroy Chang summoned the Director of the Military Department and impressed upon him the critical state of affairs at the present moment. H. E. instructed the director to take every precaution against any emergency, although everything is quiet in this city.

FOR needlessly wounding a buffalo by cutting its forelegs and back with a chopper, Li Chuen Tsai, a coolie residing at Tai O, was sentenced to three months' hard labour at the Police Court, this morning.

A REPORT has been received by the Central Government from the local authorities at Chaochiao-kou (Kalgan), the gate-town on the line of the Great Wall, to the effect that a large number of Huaghuizs suddenly raided that town last week and made off with considerable plunder. It will be remembered that about four weeks ago a Major was captured, presumably by the same band in the vicinity of Kalgan, while on his way from Peking to Mongolia to purchase remounts for his squadron. It is reported that mounted bandits are worse in that section this year than ever before, and that people cannot go out either by day or by night without fear of being attacked.

PRINCE Arthur of Connaught, who has received from King Manuel of Portugal the Orders of Christ and Avis, will, doubtless, bring the green ribbon of the latest Order into greater prominence than it has hitherto enjoyed in England. As a rule, when you see that ribbon in a buttonhole, you may take it that the decoration adorns a Brazilian. The original institution dates back to the thirteenth century, when it incited Portuguese chivalry to do battle with the Moorish invader. The Knights of Avis, in those days, had a chaucery of their own in the city, from which the Order took its name. When the Moors were done with, the Knights went, too. The present decoration was revived by Queen Maria, in the eighteenth century; and when, later on, Brazil proclaimed its independence, it nevertheless far acknowledged the fatherland as to retain the Avis for republican decorative purposes.

THE following is from the *New York Press*:—The patient complained of insomnia. "You must get an alarm clock at once," said the physician. The patient started, "I mean it! What time do you wake usually in the night?" "Two o'clock lately." "Set the alarm for fifteen minutes before two. As soon as it strikes, get up, dress for the day and take a walk of not less than two miles. Do not go to bed again that day under any circumstances, nor take a nap, even sitting in your chair. The next night set the alarm at a quarter past two. You will sleep until it wakes you. Get up as before, and take another two-mile walk. The third night you can venture to set your alarm clock at three. Repeat the walk. If you are not cured by that time you will be a more difficult case than any I have had heretofore; but if the habit of lying awake is not broken, begin back at a o'clock again and repeat. Another cure for insomnia is sitting up with the sick; just bind yourself to sit up all night with some good, strong, invalid, and if you are not permanently healed of insomnia before morning you may come back here and I will not charge you anything for another prescription."

## Cafe Weismann.

## PROBLEM FOR RESTAURANTEURS.

## DRINKS WITHOUT MEALS TABOOED.

The prosecution brought by the police against Mr. H. Fiedler, licensee of Cafe Weismann, Ltd., for the retail of intoxicating liquor at the premises in Queen's Road Central, and which was adjourned from a previous hearing in order that certain points submitted by Mr. Goldring might be considered by the magistrate (Mr. J. R. Wood), was resumed this morning.

It will be remembered that at the original hearing Mr. Goldring (for the defence) urged that there were certain peculiarities in the precise terms of the licence held by his client which were not to be found in those granted to other licensees of the same grade. The Court, on re-assembling to-day, declared that the licence held by the defendant was on all fours with those of others in a similar character, but convicted the defendant of a contravention, the penalty for which was assessed at \$10.

The evidence given by two witnesses for the police was, in effect, that they had entered the cafe and called for liquor, without specifying that they required food as an accompaniment. The drink in question was beer, which was supplied to them, which they consumed on the premises. The police representatives detached the labels from the bottles which had been served to them and held them as evidence against the manager of the restaurant.

The cross-examination of the leading witness was in the following terms:—  
Mr. Goldring—I suggest to you before you sat down you showed a menu to the "boy"?  
Witness—No.

I put it to you, you did?—I did not.  
Neither you nor anyone else?—No.

I put it to you that before you called for drinks you were asked if you wanted cakes?—Yes.

You went into the dining room, did you not?—Yes.

And was supplied with drinks there?—Yes.  
The defendant, on being called to the stand, said that he was licensee of Cafe Weismann. The principal object of the business was to supply meals. There were regular hours for meals, after which no liquor was served. Liquor was only served at meals. There was no bar on the premises.

The Court—What are your orders to your servants?—Not to supply any drinks without meals.

Did you give any instructions to your servants?—Oh, yes, I did.

What did you tell them to do?—If a man came and sat down at a table and did not call for a meal he was not to be served with drinks.

Have you ever turned any customers away?

—Yes.

You have?—Oh, yes.

A "boy," Chan Chik, in defendant's employ, and who has charge of the dining-room, stated that the orders received from his master was to supply drinks only to those who called for food also. On the 3rd November three men called shortly before noon. It was then fifteen minutes. They sat near a table. Witness showed them the menu. "They did not look at the card," he added, "but asked for beer. I asked them what kind of beer they wanted. They said, 'Kupper.' I said I could not serve them, but one of them said it was 'all right.'"

Witness placed the glasses on the table, some cakes, and then opened the beer.

The Court—Is that the usual way you do it?

Witness—No.

Why?—Because one of the men "noddled his head."

Mr. Goldring submitted that on the evidence his Worship could not convict. The drinks, he contended, were supplied in the dining-room. The first idea of the "boy" was that the men had come in for meals. When they refused to place a number of cakes before them, and then, supplied the drinks. There was no breach committed, for meals had been supplied. This case was different from that of Bertolone's as his client had an eating-house licence and the other had not. The offence, if his Worship was going against him, was not a serious one, and he asked that the summons be dismissed.

His Worship imposed the fine as stated above.

## KOWLOON PHASANTS ALARMED.

## GANG OF ROBBERS MAKE A RIDICULOUS HAUL.

A despicable attack on a poor farmer, who with his family occupies a humble and unostentatious abode on the Kowloon City Road, was committed by a band of armed robbers shortly after eight o'clock this morning. According to the information received from one of our correspondents, the cowardly gang made a descent on the isolated little habitation, where the small family was engaged in the usual early morning task of disturbing the fowls-looking off-shoots of what was once alleged to have belonged to the potato tribe. With fierce gestures and in tones which were entirely to the point, our correspondent says, the marauders surrounded the household, put the fear of death into the hearts of the helots, who made Marathon race time to the nearest thickets and breathed at slow intervals of one minute per break. The visitors pursued the even tenor of the way; incidentally they demolished the door which had neither lock nor latch to start with, made a forcible entrance into what the Chinese owner termed his "castle," and proceeded to search for the valuables possessed by the worthy occupants, who, as we have said, were otherwise engaged for the moment. The robbers eventually marched off with "great booty," consisting of a few articles of discarded clothing, an heirloom bracelet, and a "destone" earring. The gang thereupon made off.

After receiving the above communication, inquiries were made at police headquarters by a *Hongkong Telegraph* representative. It was learned that the facts of the case were essentially correct, and that one of those who is believed to have been concerned in the operations of the gang has been arrested.

## Telegrams.

## "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

## PEKING AFFAIRS.

## FOREIGN MINISTERS' SYMPATHY.

## THE LEGATION GUARDS.

[By courtesy of the "Shenung Po."]

Peking, 20th November.

The Foreign Ministers in Peking propose to go into mourning for twenty-seven days.

The members of the Diplomatic Corps propose to repair in a body, on the 21st inst., to the Palace and there pay their last respects to the mortal remains of the departed Emperor and Empress Dowager.

The proposal by the Foreign Ministers to remove the Legation Guards to Taku has not been abandoned.

It is proposed by the Central Government that, on the occasion of the Accession to the Throne of the new Emperor, Pu-yi, Imperial clemency will be shown in the Edict by the granting of free pardon to prisoners for certain offences.

Grand Councillor Yuan Shih-kai proceeded to the Palace to make arrangements for the funeral obsequies and has not since left the precincts of the Imperial building.

The Prince Regent hesitates to take upon himself the entire responsibility of administering the affairs of State; he generally confers with Yuan Shih-kai and seeks his advice.

It is rumoured that Prince Su, Siu-ki, and Duke Tsai will be appointed to the Grand Council.

The death of Prince Ching has given rise to all manner of rumours.

Honolulu, 20th November.

The Chinese residents in Honolulu have received with much grief the news of the death of His Majesty Kwang Su, and are discussing a date wherefrom the entire community will go into mourning. They have telegraphed to Peking for Court news in the present crisis.

## NAVAL REORGANISATION.

## ENGLAND AND AMERICA'S PROFFERED ASSISTANCE.

[By courtesy of the "Shenung Po."]

Peking, 20th November.

H. E. Wu Ting-fang, Minister to Washington, and Lord Li, Minister to the Court at St. James's, have telegraphed to the Waiwupu that both the United States and England are willing to assist China in the reorganisation of her Navy.

## [Reuter's.]

## The Near Eastern Question.

LONDON, 19th November.

The Powers have renewed their representations to Serbia, recommending her to preserve peace and to withdraw troops from the Austrian frontier.

Serbia replied complaining of insults to Serbian royalties in the Austrian press, and theatres, and of the military preparations of Austria.

Later.

Turkey has presented the Powers its programme for a conference.

The programme comprises seven points, viz., the revision of the status of Rumiella, also of Bulgaria, including the question of tribute; the status of Bosnia and Herzegovina; compensation to Serbia and Montenegro; the abrogation of Articles 23 and 61 of the Berlin Treaty, the modification of the capitulations and the revision of Article 29 as desired by Montenegro.

## Bishop Awdry's Successor.

The Bishop of Dorking succeeds Bishop Awdry in Tokio.

## The Opium Question.

Colonel Seely, in reply to Mr. Taylor concerning the report of the Opium Commission, said the Straits report had not yet been received.

In regard to Hongkong, the Governor's modified proposals were down on the way. In the meantime it had not been possible to take action.



## Record Cricket.

219 RUNS FOR NO WICKETS.

TO-DAY'S MATCH.

In this afternoon's Match of the Hongkong Cricket Club's "B" Team against Kowloon on the former's ground, Messrs. T. F. Pearce and R. Hancock created a mild sensation by the unprecedented score of 216 and 73 runs (not out) respectively. The bowlers were Messrs. Mulin, Brewer, Dixon, Libesud and Major E. R. J. Chitty.

We are indebted for the above to the Hongkong Cricket Club, through whose courtesy we have been enabled to publish the eminently satisfactory score at the time of going to press.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

## A COMPLAINT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH," SIR.—An old resident complains of the cillous manner in which European owners of dogs allow these pests to run, bark and attempt to attack chair bearers. I look upon this foolish amusement on the part of these Europeans as a mean and most uncalled for action.

European owners of these faithful animals should know that these dogs, overcome with excitement at seeing their masters at the tiffin hour, etc., should be prepared to check them when they extend their excitement to attacking chair bearers and street coolies. —Yours faithfully,

T. P. H.

Hongkong, 20th November, 1908.

## FRAUDULENT TRADE-MARKS.

LETTER TO ROBE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Kobe Chamber of Commerce has received a communication from Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, calling the attention of the Chamber to the piracy of foreign trademarks by Japanese manufacturers and merchants, reports the *Japan Chronicle*. The letter, which has presumably been addressed to all the Chambers of Commerce in the country, was accompanied by specimens of forged foreign labels, and reads in substance as follows:—

"The extension of the sphere of business enterprise has of late intensified the evils of competition. As a result some merchants are known to be freely indulging in fraud and manufacturers imitate the inventions of others or produce spurious articles. There are some who are always trying shamelessly to diminish the profits of others for the sake of temporary personal gain. There are not a few who venture to infringe the right of others to industrial property by imitating or pirating inventions, trademarks, &c. These are tendencies to be deplored in regard to the future of the Empire's industry. It is to be particularly noted that complaints have been frequently made by foreigners against the infringement of their trademarks or trade-names by Japanese. While some of these complaints cannot be regarded as legitimate in the eyes of the law, there are many actions on the part of Japanese business-men which have a strong appearance of being illegal and fraudulent. These actions not only damage the credit of Japanese business men, but tend to affect the national prestige of the Empire. The annexed specimens of forged trade marks illustrate only the most glaring examples. From these the rest can be inferred. From the first, the Patent Bureau has been diligently scrutinising all applications for registration of trade-marks in order to detect forgeries, and applications for trademarks which are calculated to impose on the public have been rejected. It is to be hoped that all business-men will exercise redoubled care, warning each other and making it a principle of business to fortify their credit and strive to promote commerce and industry by legitimate means."

## OPIUM-SMUGGLING.

SIR FREDERICK'S REPORTED REPRESENTATIONS.

The writer of Native Notes in the *M. C. D. News* says:—The Governor of Hongkong, according to native papers, has sent a dispatch to the Viceroy of the Liangkwang provinces through the British Consul-General at Canton, complaining of the slackness with which the prohibition against the exporting of opium to Hongkong is enforced. The Governor states that in August last there were no less than eight cases of Chinese smuggling opium into Hongkong from Kwangtung. This, he says, is evidently due to the remissness with which the exportation of opium is prohibited by the Chinese authorities. In conclusion (according to the report) his Excellency asks the Viceroy to instruct the Customs authorities concerned to take strict measures to prohibit the traffic.

## SHIPPING AND MAILS.

MAILS DUE.

American (*Shirley*) 23rd inst., 8 a.m.  
English (*Devonshire*) 26th inst., at noon.  
German (*Prinz Waldemar*) 9th prox.

The P. M. S. S. Co.'s s.s. *Siberia*, with the American Mail, will be due to arrive in Hongkong on 23rd inst., at 8 a.m.

The C. P. R. Co.'s s.s. *Empress of India* left Vancouver, a.m., on 19th inst., for Hongkong via the usual Ports of Call.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Kawaguchi Maru*, European Line, left Shanghai for this port on 20th inst., and is expected here on 23rd inst.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Yokohama Maru*, Australian Line, left Nagasaki for this port on 20th inst., and is expected here on 24th inst.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Tokio Maru*, American Line, left Kobe for this port via Moji and Shanghai on 23rd inst., and is expected here on 26th inst.

The N. Y. K. s.s. *Tokio Maru*, Bombay Line, left Bombay for this port via Colombo and Singapore on 17th inst., and is expected here on 21st prox.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s s.s. *Teasdale*, left Singapore for this port on 19th inst., at 3.30 a.m., with the outward English Mail, and is expected here on 26th inst., at noon.

## THE LATE EMPEROR.

KUANG SU'S REIGN.

The news of the death of the Emperor Kuang Hui, which we were able to announce on Saturday morning has now been confirmed; but the "official" date of the event is given as November 14, 1908, at five o'clock in the afternoon, writes the *M. C. D. News* editorially. In view of the traditional reticence the apparent discrepancy between the first intimation of the Emperor's death and the official notice does not evoke surprise. Up to a late hour yesterday (15th inst.) the local Chinese authorities were still without information on the subject, and it is possible that there had been an intention in the highest quarters to withhold the news for some days. When, however, the information leaked out, it would become necessary not only to admit the accuracy of the report, but also to avoid the semblance of having suppressed the fact. On the other hand the condition of the Emperor may have been such that already on Friday the end was known to be inevitable and news of his actual death was at once put in circulation. At present the later history of the Peking Court during the last few days can only be the subject of conjecture. It is reported that the Empress Dowager is also seriously ill, and her failing health at the moment when it became necessary to arrange for the succession to the Throne may well have prompted the desire to keep the Emperor's death from the public knowledge, until the new order had been firmly established. If we are to believe Chinese statements, uncertainty regarding

## THE SUCCESSION.

has prevailed up to the last moment. Prince Ch'ue, third son of Prince Ch'ue and the Emperor's next brother, has now been appointed Regent and his eldest son Pu Yi, a child of two years of age, has been summoned to the Palace, presumably as Heir-Apparent. Common report had previously singled out for this position Pu Lun, a grandson of the eldest brother of Prince Ch'ue, the Emperor's father, and there is reason to believe that his claim commands no little support. The course of events, therefore, during the next few days depends much on the skill with which the Empress Dowager has laid her plans and on the ability of the Regent, with or without her moral assistance, to hold his own against rival factions.

## THE REIGN OF KUANG HSU.

to-day, it is difficult to decide the position that posterity will assign to it in the annals of the Empire. Of one thing alone, unfortunately, can we be certain, and that is, that however prominently the events of this period will stand out, it can never be written of the Ruler "*Quidrum pars magna fuit*." During the short period, when he succeeded in gathering up in his own hands the reins of government, he showed promise of leading China on a new path. He surrounded himself with the most enlightened men of the country, reform was in the air and edicts of a far-reaching character followed fast one upon another. There was no more enthusiastic advocate of the new ideas than the Emperor himself, but his inclinations were ahead of those of the nation at large. The movement created the inevitable reaction; Kuang Hui had omitted to carry with him in his zeal for reform one whose personality was more potent than his own. When the Empress Dowager re-asserted herself, her nephew's brief spell of authority was at an end. From 1898 he remained merely the nominal occupant of the throne, taking as the years passed, as much by necessity as of his own volition, a gradually diminishing part in the affairs of government. More recently he would seem to have been content in the possession of naught but the silent attributes of royalty. Nevertheless his reign must be associated with

## THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA.

in China; and, in the absence of some commanding figure, who by the force of his own character shall compel China into the path of rapid progress, a charitable posterity may remember that Kuang Hui had identified himself closely with the nation's first abortive effort. Judged by the standard of his imperial stewardship, the late Emperor will have to admit that he has failed to maintain intact the great heritage upon which he entered as an infant three years ago. But while China's hold upon neighbouring nations has been weakened or entirely withdrawn, in that time, she has experienced a marked access of national consolidation. Her internal organization, it is true, leaves much to be desired; she is still a house divided in many respects against herself; but, at least, she is beginning to feel a sense of imperial unity without which there can be no hopes of real progress.

For some time to come all eyes will be directed towards Peking. In view of the unassuming rôle played in recent years by the Emperor his early death may be the means of saving the country from a serious upheaval. The sudden withdrawal of the firm hand of the Empress Dowager at a time when the occupant of the throne was unequal to the burden of imperial rule would have constituted a grave danger. By the selection of a strong man as Emperor or as Regent,

THE RIVALRIES OF OPPOSING FACTIONS may be kept within bounds, while the incentive to disorder—a vacant throne—will be lacking. Even now, with the illness of the Empress Dowager coinciding with the Emperor's death it may be open to question whether the plans for the succession have been sufficiently matured. Success, however, will go to the part with the big battalions, and as there are of the outward and visible signs of the reform movement, carefully collected in many thousands, it will be remembered, in and around Peking at the present moment—there is reason to hope that China will pass through the change of rulers peacefully. If this should prove to be the case and if the destinies of the Empire are committed to enlightened hands, while the forces of reaction unsupported from above melt away in confusion and disgrace, China, indeed, stands on the threshold of an eventful era. To the credit of Kuang Hui it can then be said that, though he lacked the strength to help on the cause, he was not found among those who deliberately set their faces against the march of progress and reform.

## A THRONLESS ASIATIC POTENTATE.

The second volume (which has recently appeared) of the Indian Empire section of the "Imperial Gazetteer," contains an historical chapter upon the European period which summarizes all the principal events from the Portuguese down to the close of Lord Curzon's rule. In the concluding pages of this epitome there are some curious perversions of facts which deserve to rank as "mock pearls of history" by reason of their disregard for the accuracy which one is accustomed to associate with compilations of this character. One of them occurs in the paragraph relating to the Tibetan occurrences of four years ago, wherein it is stated that the Dalai Lama abdicated and that the Youngusband protocol was arranged with his successor. All the text-books on the subject, as well as the official reports, are unanimous in asserting that the potentate, whose temerity caused our intervention, fled from Lhasa before our forces reached that interesting city, without going through the formality of relinquishing his rights as a ruler. The only useful relic of the Lama's domination discovered by us was his official Seal, which was subsequently affixed, certainly without consent, to the Treaty accepted by the administrative Council which was summoned for the reconciliation of the differences between India and Tibet. The militant pontiff had become an invisible entity until at a later date it was revealed that he had sought Russian protection.

Our occupation of Lhasa occurred when events in the Far East already pointed to hostilities between Russia and Japan, and consequently the Dalai Lama was unable to obtain the benevolent assistance from St. Petersburg upon which he relied, either for his restoration to Tibet, or the establishment of a schismatic Buddhist Church under the Tsar's protection. And the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian agreement, a year ago, temporarily extinguished a remarkable intrigue which had been a dangerous feature in Asiatic politics for at least a decade previously. Antagonising the Russian duplicity which had been the chief cause of his misfortunes, the Dalai Lama quitted the vicinity of their frontier some time ago, and for the past year or so has been the guest of the Chinese Government at a famous Buddhist monastery a few hundred miles from Peking. The Son of Heaven and his councillors have found the thronless potentate a most costly and inconvenient visitor, and for months past much Celestial subtlety has been expended in efforts to tempt the Lama to the capital, with a view to arranging for his restoration to Tibet under conditions which may limit his temporal ambitions and prevent him from again menacing the peace of Eastern Asia. The Lama, after receiving satisfactory assurances of his sanctity and personal liberty would not be imperilled, reached Peking a fortnight ago and although recent telegrams have informed us that the negotiations with him have been impeded by his non-observance of certain canons of the inflexible etiquette of the Court, these hindrances will be smoothed over, and we shall hear presently that the Buddhist Pope is on his way to Lhasa.

Although our altruistic diplomacy has resulted in the renunciation of the most useful provision of the Youngusband protocol, and last year's engagement with Russia excludes both of us from meddling with Tibetan affairs, India is commercially interested in the future of China's restored province, and will follow coming developments with considerable attention. Since the day of Warren Hastings many endeavours have been made to establish friendly relations between ourselves and the Kingdom of the Lamas, and to protect and promote the frontier trade in which many of our subjects are engaged. But all these attempts have been futile, and the most recent, as we know, led to the hostilities which ended in the temporary occupation of Lhasa. The new trading regulations which have just been agreed to by the Chinese and Indian Governments will, if properly worked, stimulate commercial developments on the frontier where, despite existing difficulties which these provisions are intended to solve, there are already indications of enhanced commercial activity. But with our arch-enemy, the Dalai Lama, re-installed at the capital from which he fled four years ago, there may be a recrudescence of the old troubles unless the Chinese maintain their suzerainty over Tibet more efficiently than in the past. For until our intervention the Lhasa potentate, of whom the present is the thirteenth incarnation, had been practically independent of Peking for a couple of centuries, and the Celestial overlordship has deteriorated into a political fiction. Sixteen years ago, the Dalai Lama, who possesses strong temporal ambitions, emancipated himself from this nominal control by dissolving the State Council which administered Tibetan affairs, and concentrating all power in his own person. After completing this revolution, which seems to have been effected without any serious opposition from Peking, he opened communications with St. Petersburg with the avowed object of securing Russian recognition and protection for his new Asiatic Kingdom. Thereafter events developed rapidly, as both the Home and Indian Governments were fully informed of the negotiations between Lhasa and the Czar's capital, and merely awaited a favourable opportunity for administering a quietus to a projected alliance which would have menaced the security of our North-Eastern frontiers. That occasion presented itself six years ago, when repeated violations of our border by the Tibetans, and their interference with the trading privileges arranged under an older treaty, had exhausted the patience of the Government of India, and strong remonstrances were addressed to Lhasa. But the insolent potentate refused to receive the Viceroy's letters, and all attempts to arrive at a peaceful settlement of our differences with the border kingdom were frustrated by the open hostility manifested towards us by this thronless potentate. Our advance over the

border was followed by his temporary obliteration from Tibetan affairs, and his re-appearance, in the guise of a chastened and much modified personality, will be regarded with mixed feelings in India. For he is by no means the despotic incarnation imagined, as his years are but six and thirty, and he is said to be remarkably active, both physically and mentally, for an Asiatic, whose principal occupation should be contemplative absorption in the religious mysteries typified in his person. However, time will show whether his recent misadventures have modified these ambitions which brought him into collision with our ex-Viceroy, and, moreover, unless the reports which reach us of the Celestial activity in consolidating their government over restored Tibet are absolutely misleading, the Chinese are taking such measures as will effectually prevent any future ebullitions by the Dalai Lama in the direction of temporal independence.—*Bombay Gazette.*

## COMMERCIAL.

## WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Messrs. Erich Georg & Co.'s weekly share report of to-day's date reads:—

The volume of business transacted during the week under review has been but small. Rates, on the whole, have ruled steadily to firm for most stocks; in fact, in some few isolated cases, showing a slight improvement, but the reluctance of holders to sell, at present rates, has prevented larger sales. The sterling demand rate of exchange on London closes 18.8½, while rates on Shanghai are 11s. 7½ for a Bank T/T, and 11s. 7½ for a three days' sight Private Bill, the rate in Shanghai on this for a three days' sight Private Bill being 11s. 7½. Bar-silver in London is quoted at 23 1/16d., and Consols at 84 7/16. The Bank of England's rate of discount remains at 10 per cent., and the private market rate of discount at 2½ per cent.

Bank Shares.—A few small lots of Hongkong and Shanghai have been sold at \$87½ to \$88½, closing with buyers \$85½, the London rate having advanced to £82. 10s. 0d. Nationals have buyers at \$51.

Marine Insurance Shares.—Unions sold and are quoted at \$78½. China Traders can be placed at \$79½. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without sales.

First Insurance Shares.—Hongkong, sold and are obtainable at \$130. Chinas sold at \$120 and \$101, and are wanted at latter rate.

Shipping Shares.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats sold at \$99½, closing with sellers at \$99½. Indo-Chinas are weak with sellers at \$55; Shanghai reports buyers at 11s. 38, while in London the quotation has dropped to £3. 10s. 0d. for preference, and £3. 10s. 0d. for deferred shares. China and Manilla, and Douglases are unchanged. Star Ferries sold at \$14 for the old, and at \$15 for the new issue. Shell Transports sold at 45s. and have buyers at 45s. 3d.; the London rate is 46s. 9d. Union Waterboats have been sold and consignee in request at \$10.

Mining Shares.—Charbonnages are wanted at \$80. Ruils sold at \$7 to \$7½, closing with buyers at \$7.40; the *Hongkong Telegraph*, 11th instant, prints a very interesting article about this mine, clipped from the *Mining Journal*. The crushing for the four weeks ended 7th instant, resulted in 1,077 ounces of smelted gold being obtained from 3,566 tons of ore, crushed; to this has to be added 174 ounces of gold obtained from plates at Bukit Koman, also 109 ounces of gold obtained by cyanide treatment during the last three months, making a total of 1,360 ounces of gold. Chinese Engineering and Mining Shares are weak at 11s. 15.

Docks, Wharves, Godowns, &c.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks sold and have sellers at \$24. Fenwicks, as well as New Amoy Docks, are unchanged. Shanghai Docks have dropped in the north to 11s. 77. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sellers at \$45. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have dropped to 11s. 150.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—A small lot of Hongkong Lands fetched \$93, but more shares are on offer. Shanghai Lands are quoted at 11s. 116½. Humphreys' Estates sold and have buyers at \$9.30. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged and without any transactions.

Cotton Mills.—Shanghai quotes: Ewos 11s. 67, International 11s. 58, Loon Kung Mows 11s. 75, and Sooychees 11s. 240. Hongkong Cottons are quiet at \$10. The 13th annual meeting of shareholders in the International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Limited, will be held on 25th instant, until which date the transfer books have been closed. The report for the year, ended 30th September, 1908, has just been received from the north, and we shall refer to same in detail in our next issue; the net profit amounted to T\$ 25,190.95, which, together with T\$ 85,519.05, carried forward from last year, makes a total of T\$ 110,710.01 at credit of profit and loss account. The directors propose to write off T\$ 7,338, place T\$ 25,000 to reserve fund and carry forward the balance of T\$ 8,372.01.

Sundry Manufacturing Companies.—Hongkong Electric sold at \$8. Dairy Farms are quiet at \$121. Green Island Cements have been done and are on offer at \$10. Other stocks under this heading have not been dealt in and rates are unchanged.

Miscellaneous.—China-Borneo sold at \$10, but can be placed now at \$10½. Langkats had another big jump, and are quoted T\$ 80 in Shanghai according to a wire received just now; a fourth and final dividend of T\$ 10 per share for the current book year, together with a bonus of T\$ 10 per share, has been declared, payable 15th proximo, making in all T\$ 50 per share for the financial year; the transfer books will be closed from the 8th to the 15th proximo, both days inclusive. It is further announced that oil has been found on the Company's concession at Sonagaj Rajah in Assam.

Wetness have buyers at \$9½. An interim dividend of thirty cents per share on account of the current year, will be payable on 27th instant, transfer books closing from 24th to 30th instant, both days inclusive.

In other stocks under this heading there is no change and no sales have been reported.

## To-day's Advertisement.

## PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, ON

WEDNESDAY,

the 25th November, 1908, at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road, corner of Ice House Street, A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF JAPANESE CURIQS.

Comprising:— HAND-PAINTED KAGA and WAGOYA TEA SETS, SILK-EMBROIDERED SCREENS, HAND BAGS, MONEY PURSES, WALL HANGINGS, FINE IVORY CARVINGS, GOLD and SILVER CLOISONNE BOWLS, VASES, and TEA SETS, KINKOSAN, SATSUMA, YASU, PLATES, INCENSE BURNERS and TEA SETS, BRASS and BRONZE CARVED VASES, BOWLS, LANTERNS, BUDDHAS, FLOWER POTS, MAKUDZO, IMARI and ARITA WARE, GOLD DAMASCENE BANGLES, BUTTONS, MOTHER-OF-PEARL INLAID SCREENS and PANELS, &c. &c. &c.

Catalogues will be issued. TERMS.—As usual. HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 21st November, 1908. [1009]

## THE UNREST IN TIBET.

In obedience to Imperial instructions the Viceroy of Szechuan has asked the Provincial Treasurer of that province and the Customs Treaty of Chungking to send T\$ 250,000 to H. E. Chao Erh-feng (High Commissioner of Frontier Defences in Szechuen, Tibet and Yunnan), for the maintenance of the Chinese troops engaged in restoring peace in Tibet.

The Dalai Lama has instructed the Paoshen Lama to use all possible means to assist the Chinese authorities in restoring order in Tibet and to punish the rebellious lamas.

The Dalai Lama is announced to be leaving Peking at the end of this month.

The Dalai Lama has requested the Chinese Government to allow him to float a foreign loan for the construction of a railway from Chumbi to Lhasa and for the development of the mines along the route of the railway. It is believed that the Tibetan Pontiff's proposal will be sanctioned by the Chinese Government.—*N. C. D. News.*

## THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN JAPAN.

## THE AMALGAMATION SCHEME.

The *Japan Chronicle* says:—As already reported the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company is preparing to absorb the Oriental Sugar Refining Company, of Formosa. The *Osaka Asahi* notes that the sugar-refining industry in Japan has made wonderful progress and has now almost entirely checked the import of refined sugar. The industry is now in fact suffering from over-production. In consequence the Dai Nippon, Kobe, and Yokohama Sugar Refining Companies have formed a Trust among themselves for the sale of sugar, at the same time restricting the output in order to maintain an equilibrium between supply and demand. For the same purpose the Dai Nippon has absorbed the Nagaya Sugar Refining Company. The sugar industry in Formosa is generally believed to have a very promising future, and the demand for shares of sugar-refining companies has increased. The *Osaka Journal* points out that the industry in Japan has now developed to the extent of over-production, its future success therefore depends entirely on the production of cheaper crude sugar. The sugar-refining companies are all exercising their energies towards the securing of sugar-cane plantations and the economical operation of their mills. The Dai Nippon Sugar Company has obtained the services of a Dutch engineer, who has had great experience in sugar production in Java and Cuba, as superintendent engineer for its Formosan mill. The mill is now being constructed under his direction and is expected to begin operations before the end of this month. Anticipating the success of this mill, buyers have appeared for the shares of the company. The Oriental Sugar Refining Company has been most successful in establishing sugar-cane plantations, and it is for this reason that the Dai Nippon is preparing to absorb the Formosan company. The Dai Nippon, which has obtained the supremacy in the production of refined sugar, is anxious to secure the same position in regard to the crude sugar and so hold sway over the sugar industry in Japan. Mr. Sakawa, President of the Dai Nippon, who is now in Osaka, is privately negotiating for the purchase of the Oriental Sugar Company with the directors, who are now in Osaka. Notwithstanding that sugar-refining is suffering from over-production, Mr. Sakawa seems to be optimistic regarding the outlook for the industry. This gentleman is said to have remarked that in Great Britain, which is the largest sugar-consuming country in the world, the average consumption of sugar per cap. of the population amounts to 70 lbs. a year. The United States comes next followed by France, Germany, and Japan in order. The consumption of sugar in Japan, which now amounts to 500,000,000 lbs., is a mile-stone measuring the advance of the standard of living in each country. Sugar is consumed in the making of preserves, condensed milk, and other industries more than in the manufacture of cake or confectionery. It should not be difficult to increase to 700,000,000 lbs. the annual consumption of sugar in Japan, which now amounts to 500,000,000 lbs. He holds that with the large quantity of sugar which may be produced in Formosa, the outlook for the sugar industry in Japan is promising.

## Intimations.

NETHERLANDS LLOYD OF AMSTERDAM AND BATAVIA.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS of the above Company, are prepared to accept Fire and Marine Risks at Current Rates. CRUZ, BASTO & CO., PROPOSERS, 11th November, 1908. [1098]

## THE IMPERIAL COLONIAL CLUB.

THE above Club is formed chiefly for COLONIAL and OVER-SEA MEMBERS; it is situated at No. 8, Piccadilly (the centre of Chancery), opposite the Green Park. The Club has a Bridge Section, Reception Dining, Billiard Room, Smoking Lounge, Reading Room and Library.

Ladies are eligible as Members. Entrance Fee, Five Guineas. Annual Subscription, Five Guineas.

Further particulars from THE ORGANISING SECRETARY, 24, Piccadilly, W. London, 19th August, 1908. [1099]

## To Let.

## TO LET.

GODOWN No. 5A, DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to— THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD. Hongkong, 1st November, 1908. [1100]

## TO LET.

A HOUSE in KNUTSFORD TERRACE, Kowloon.

Apply to— THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD. Hongkong, 1st November, 1908. [1101]

## TO LET.

HATHERLEIGH, CONDUIT ROAD.

A HOUSE in WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD. A HOUSE in RIFON TERRACE. OFFICES in YORK BUILDING. GODOWNS in PRATA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS, and No. 16B, DES VOEUX ROAD next to the Hongkong Hotel. FLATS in MORETON TERRACE. No. 10, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

Apply to— THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD. Hongkong, 1st November, 1908. [1102]

## Hotel.

## KOWLOON HOTEL.

"Nemo me

Impune Lacessit."

ST. ANDREW'S DAY

## SCOTCH DINNER

ON

MONDAY,

the 30th Nov., 1908.

## SPECIAL MENU.

The 105th M. B. L. Band will play

Special Selections of Music

during and after Dinner.

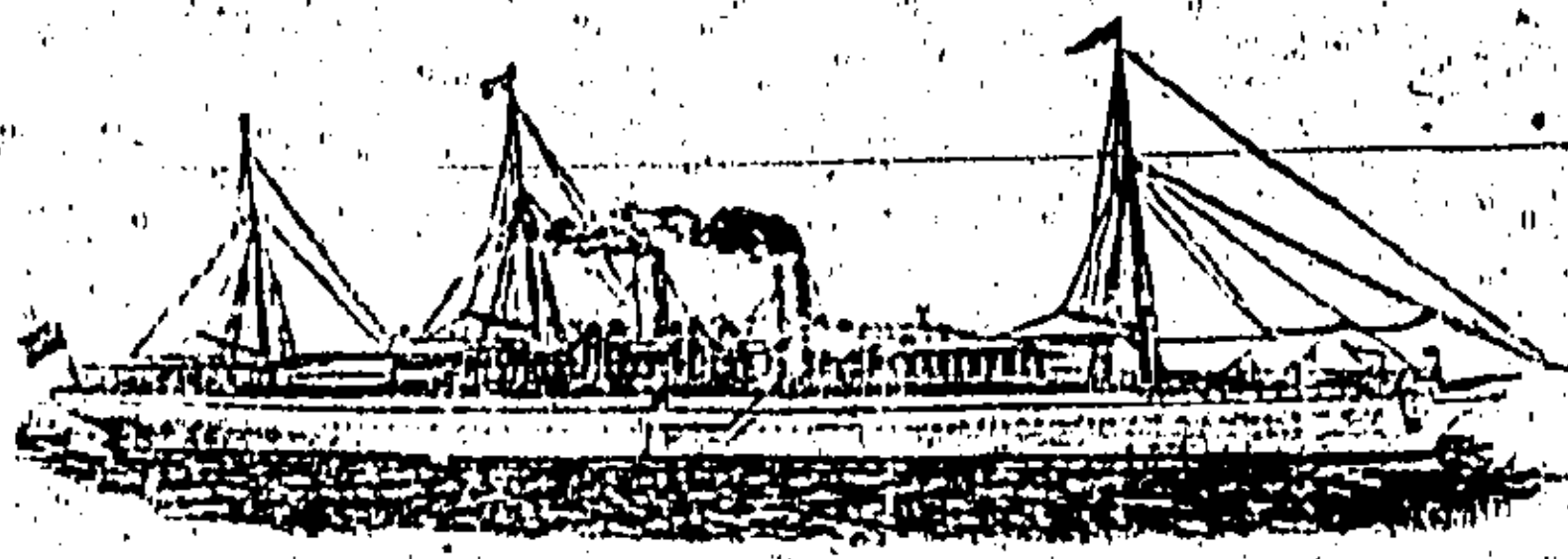
O. E. OWEN,

Proprietor.

Hongkong, 19th November, 1908.



## Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S  
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.

## Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under 12 Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days' Ocean Travel.

12 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCOUVER. 21 Days HONGKONG to VANCOUVER

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R.M.S.	Tons	LEAVE HONGKONG	ARRIVE VANCOUVER
"EMPRESS OF CHINA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Nov. 28th	Dec. 10th
"MONTEAGLE"	6,163	WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9th	Jan. 2nd, 1909
"EMPRESS OF INDIA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Dec. 19th	Jan. 8th
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN"	6,000	SATURDAY, Jan. 16th	Feb. 5th
"EMPRESS OF CHINA"	6,000	SATURDAY, Feb. 13th	March 5th
"MONTEAGLE"	6,163	TUESDAY, Mar. 2nd	Mar. 26th

"EMPRESS" steamships will depart from Hongkong at 4 P.M.  
S.S. "MONTEAGLE" at 12 Noon.

THE Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES and EUROPE, calling at SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, (through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, and VICTORIA, B.C. connecting at VANCOUVER with a Special Mail Express, and at QUEBEC, with the Company's New Palatial "EMPERESS" Steamships, 14,500 tons register, thus providing a comfortable and speedy through route to Europe.

Hongkong to London, via Canada Atlantic Ports or New York 27 to 30 days.  
Hongkong to London, Intermediate on Steamers, and 1st Class on Railway, 42 to 44 days.

First-class rates to London include cost of Meals and Berth in Sleeping Car while crossing the American Continent by Canadian, Pacific direct line.

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SPECIAL THROUGH RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

For further Information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to

J. W. GRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent for China, &c.,  
Corner Paddar Street and Praya, Opposite Blake Pier.

## INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

## (PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For	Steamship	On
TIENTSIN VIA CHEFOO	CHEUNGSHING	SUNDAY, 22nd Nov., Daylight
SHANGHAI	TUNGSHING	TUESDAY, 24th Nov., Noon
SHANGHAI	FOOSHING	WEDNESDAY, 25th Nov., Noon
S'GAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA	FOOKSANG	FRIDAY, 27th Nov., 1 P.M.
MANILA	YUENSANG	FRIDAY, 27th Nov., 4 P.M.

## RETURN TOURS TO JAPAN.

OCCUPYING 24 DAYS.

The steamers *Kaitang*, *Namang* and *Fooksang* leave about every 3 weeks for Shanghai and Yokohama returning via Kobe (Island Sea) and Moji to Hongkong, providing a stay of 5 to 6 days in Japan if passengers leave the steamer at Yokohama and rejoin at Kobe.

These vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

A duly qualified surgeon is also carried.

Steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Yangtsze Ports, Choochoo, Tientsin & Newchwang.

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STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

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FOR STRAITS, OCEAN, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

## THE Steamship

"OCEANA,"  
Captain T. H. Hild, R.N.R., carrying His Majesty's Mail, will be despatched from this for BOMBAY, &c., on SATURDAY, the 28th November, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports in connection with the Company's S.S. *Moldavia*, 9,500 tons, from Colombo, Passengers' accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via Bombay by the R.M.S. *Oceana*, due in London on 9th January, 1909.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

K. A. HEWETT,  
Superintendent.  
Hongkong, 14th November, 1908.

## "SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LTD.

FOR LONDON, HAMBURG AND ANTWERP.

## THE Steamship

"DENBIGHSHIRE" will be despatched for the above Ports on or about the 30th November, 1908.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 19th October, 1908.

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FOR BOSTON AND NEW YORK (With liberty to call at the Malabar Coast).

## THE Steamship

"TUDOR PRINCE,"  
Captain Macdonough, will be despatched for the above Ports, on or about SATURDAY, the 14th December, 1908.

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Hongkong, 11th November, 1908.

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Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Common Points in the United States of America and Canada, and also for the principal ports in Mexico, and Central and South America.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA, VIA MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer	Tons	Captain	To Sail
<i>Kumuk</i>	6,332	Cowley	Dec. 17
<i>Inveric</i>	4,789	Boyd	Jan. 14
<i>Bovair</i>	4,445	Mathe	Feb. 11

These steamers are specially fitted for the carriage of Asiatic Steamer passengers.

PARCEL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

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Queen's Buildings.  
Hongkong, 10th October, 1908.

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THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" Capt. H. W. WALKER.  
"KWONG SAI" Capt. E. S. CROWE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 every evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These Fine New Steamers have unexcelled Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey.....\$5.  
Meals.....\$1.25 each.

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S.S. CO., LD.,  
and  
SHIU ON S.S. CO., LD.,  
No. 5, Queen's Road West.

Whangpoo and 1st Dec. 1908.

## Shipping—Steamers.

## HONGKONG, NEW YORK &amp; BOSTON.



## AMERICAN-ASIATIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

## FOR NEW YORK ONLY.

S.S. "BRAEMAR"  
On MONDAY, 23rd November, at 5 P.M.

For freight and further information, apply to  
SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,  
General Agents.  
Hongkong, 18th November, 1908.

## COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

## FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

## THE Company's Steamship

"DUMBEA,"  
Captain Boyer, will be despatched for the above Ports on or about MONDAY, the 23rd instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
P. MALIN,  
Acting Agent.  
Hongkong, 20th November, 1908.

## DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

## FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

## THE Company's Steamship

"HAIYANG,"  
Captain Hodgins, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 24th inst. at 11 o'clock A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
DOUGLAS LAIRRIE & Co.,  
General Managers.  
Hongkong, 20th November, 1908.

## EASTERN-AND-AUSTRALIAN-STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

## FOR SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

(Calling at Port Darwin and Queensland Ports, and taking through Cargo to Adelaide, New Zealand, Tasmania, &c.)

## THE Steamship

"ALDENHAM,"  
Captain St. John George, will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 10th December, at Noon.

This well-known Steamer is specially fitted for Passengers, and has a Refrigerating Chamber which ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions, Ice, &c., throughout the voyage.

The Steamer is installed throughout with the Electric Light.

A Stewardess and a duly qualified Surgeon are carried.

A.B.—To assure the additional comfort of passengers the steamers of the Company have electric fans fitted in staterooms.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 20th November, 1908.

## REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE

TO NEW YORK,  
VIA PORTS AND SUB CANAL.

(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast.)

## PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

## FOR NEW YORK:

S.S. "WRAY CASTLE" 1st Dec.  
For Freight and further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 4th November, 1908.

## For Sale.

THERAPION MAY NOW ALSO BE OBTAINED IN DRUGS (TASTELESS FORM).

DEEP CURE NO PAIN.  
MARVEL UPON MARVEL.

NO SUFFERING.  
NOW DESPAIN.

THE RAPID CURE OF ALL THE MOST PAINFUL AFFECTIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY.

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## PANAMA CANAL IN TERSH PARAGRAPHS.

During the past four years 185,150 barrels of cement have been used in the canal work.

The work of excavation is done for the most part by 101 steam shovels. The shovels have an average output of 991 cubic yards per day, or 2576 cubic yards per month. The shovels have a working day of eight hours.

The quartermaster's department is responsible for the delivery of food supplies on the Isthmus. During the hot spell in the month of June the cold storage plant shipped 5,608,283 pounds of supplies in 38,309 packages.

The Isthmus, though a comparatively orderly place, is orderly only with the protection of an efficient police. The monthly list of arrests usually gets up to 500, and the idea of disorder is increased by the fact that from 30 to 50 of the prisoners are women.

Of the 6,100 gold employees on the Isthmus only 205 are women. The Isthmian canal commission employs 187 women and the Panama railroad 18. The average salary paid to the women employees is \$73.99. The highest salary paid any woman on the Isthmus is \$175 a month, and the lowest \$24 a month.

There are approximately on the Isthmus in the employ of the commission and Panama railroad 44,000 persons, of whom about 6,000 are Americans. The normal working force each day is shown from the rolls of July 1st, when there were actually at work 30,541 employees—25,388 men for the commission and 5,153 for the railroad.

The government of the Isthmus has also gone into the washing business, with an elaborate laundry and a drying house at every working camp. The drying houses, however, have nothing to do with the laundry, being intended for the sole purpose of drying garments in the rainy season, of persons who were obliged to work in the wet.

Last June, as a normal month both in expenditures and rapidly of excavation, may be taken as typical. In that month 3,039,000 cubic yards were removed at a total expenditure during the same time of \$1,891,600.85. Of this sum, however, \$1,545,602 was spent on material and supplies, and is contributed toward the permanent fixtures of the zone.

From the time the Americans began a systematic investigation on the Isthmus in 1904 up to July, 1908, 36.12 miles of borings were made to determine the geological structure along the line of the canal. A hole has been sunk at every kilometer from Gatun to Pedro Miguel, and extensive borings in addition have been made at the sites of the locks.

The estimated cost to the government of all the work on the Isthmus for one day during a normal working period such as the construction department has now reached is \$63,120. But, counting in all expenses, purchase and equipment during the four years of the United States possession this daily average of cost amounts to \$25,500 approximately.

The number of women on the clerical force has been heretofore limited by the difficulty of providing quarters for them. Most of those who have secured occupation on the Isthmus are related to male employees. Of these women 117 are nurses and 25 teachers. Besides these there are only 45 women, mostly engaged as clerks or copyists, who are on the gold basis.

On the basis of an eight-hour day, which is the rule for the most important factor, the steam shovels, the work of opening up a ship road from ocean to ocean is costing this government approximately \$9,059 a working hour. Or, counting in every day and Sundays, with 24 hours to the day, the canal is burrowing its length through the Isthmus at a cost of \$1,630 an hour.

Among the incidental activities of the government through the canal commission are such enterprises as an ice plant with a daily capacity of 74 tons; a bakery with a daily output of 20,000 loaves of bread; 500 pounds of cake and 500 pies; an ice cream factory which puts out about 100 gallons of dessert frappe every day, and a coffee roasting plant with a capacity of 3,000 pounds a day.

Of the 25,388 men working for the commission to July 1, 4,436 were on the gold roll. On the gold roll, which means those paid in United States money, are all skilled artisans, clerks and higher officials, most of whom are Americans. On the silver roll for the same day, which means those paid in Panama money or its equivalent, there were 20,952. Of the railroad employees only 316 were on the gold roll.

To handle the thousands of tons of dynamite to be used in excavation work two magazines have been authorized. Each magazine will have a capacity of 300 tons, a detonator and a house for a fearless watchman. The magazines will make it possible to limit the supply of dynamite sent out to the various points of the amount needed for the coming month. This system is expected to prevent accidents.

When completed, the canal will represent a removal of approximately 223,546,000 cubic yards of earth and stone, including excavations for locks and wharfs. This mass is almost exactly two-thirds of the estimates originally made for a canal excavated to the level of the sea, as the task of deepening the channel from the point already agreed to sea level would mean the removal of an additional 105,981,621 cubic yards, according to the estimates.

## AN APPEAL.

THE SUPERIORESS OF THE ITALIAN CONVENT, CAINE ROAD, begs most respectfully to APPEAL to the Residents of Hongkong and the Coast Ports for their kind patronage and support, and desires to state that she will be pleased to receive orders for all kinds of NEEDLE WORK.

Gentlemen's Shirts made to order, and Caps and Collars renewed on old ones.

Ladies and Children's Under-clothing, Children's Dresses, and all kinds of Embroidery. Materials can be supplied, if required.

The Superiores will also be most grateful for any PARCEL or OLD KNICKERBOCKS to be made into Bells for the Children of the Poor Schools who are taught by the Sisters.

For further particulars apply to the Sisters, who are taught by the Sisters.

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## WEATHER-FORCAST AND STORM-WARNINGS ISSUED FROM THE HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

## METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

Meteorological signals are hoisted on the mast in front of the Water Police Station at Tsim Sha, Tsui for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply that bad weather is expected here:—

Signal No.

1. A CONE point upwards indicates a Typhoon to the North of the Colony.

2. A CONE point upwards and a Y below indicates a Typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.

3. A DRUM indicates a Typhoon to the East of the Colony.

4. A CONE point downwards and a Y below indicates a Typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.

5. A CONE point downwards indicates a Typhoon to the South of the Colony.

6. A CONE point downwards and a Y below indicates a Typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.

7. A BALL indicates a Typhoon to the West of the Colony.

8. A CONE point upwards and a Y below indicates a Typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black Signal, indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving the harbour.

These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office, H.M.S. *Tamar*, Green Island Signal Mast, and the Flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon.

URGENT SIGNAL.

In addition to the above, when it is expected that the wind may increase to full typhoon force at any moment, the following Urgent Signal will be made at the Water Police Station, and repeated at the Harbour Office:—

THREE EXPLOSIVE BOMBS AT INTERVALS OF TEN SECONDS.

A Black Cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. *Tamar*.

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red, indicates that the wind may be expected to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. Signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a Cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour:

Gap Rock. Aberdeen.

Waglan. San Ki Wan.

Stanley. Sai Kung.

Cape Collinson. Sha Tin Kot.

Tai Po.

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

Further details can always be given to Ocean Vessels, on demand, by signal, from the light houses.

P. G. FIOO,  
Director.

21st Nov. 1908.

21st Nov. 1908.

21st Nov. 1908.

21st Nov. 1908.

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## Intimations.

**Don't Worry.**                      **Don't Worry.**

[illegible]

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., write as follows:—  
 "We have pleasure in stating that Mr. LI KWONG LOONG furnished the Annex to our Dispensary and gave us every satisfaction."

**NOTICE**

THE Public are hereby informed that no change has been made in the Rates of Subscription to the *Hongkong Telegraph* and they are warned against paying more than **THE GOVT (10 cts) per Single Copy.**

**THE MANAGER.**

*Hongkong Telegraph Co., Ltd*

Hongkong 10th September, 1904. 104